PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 10

Welcome to the new and updated SDG 16 info digest – edition 10!

*This tenth edition of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Info Digest announces the launch of the much awaited **SDG 16 Hub** – one stop portal - that is now available for knowledge and collaboration on this Global Goal. More details about the Hub are given below.*

Two other special features of this edition of the Digest include SDG16 related country stories and best practices from Turkmenistan and highlights from SDG 16 activities and events related to the ongoing HLPF 2018.

The Info digest provides updates on SDG 16 related events and activities, within the UN System and outside. It also has information about resources like publications, articles, blogs, tools, platforms and upcoming events. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information and resources that we can feature in future editions of this digest with Aseem Andrews.

IN FOCUS:

Just Launched!! SDG 16 Hub

The SDG 16 Hub is a one-stop platform for knowledge and exchange on SDG 16. Navigate through the 3 main Hub pillars of (WHAT, HOW TO, WHO) to find information and resources on SDG16 produced and managed UN agencies, civil society, government and state entities and the private sector. The Hub is designed to provide an interactive space to foster sharing and learning on SDG 16 and can be accessed at www.sdg16hub.org

High Level Political Forum (HLPF), 16th to 18th July 2018

The theme for the HLPF 2018 is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". This year, the HLPF reviews progress towards the SDGs, focusing in particular on Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 11, Goal 12, Goal 15, and Goal 17. Whilst involving numerous panels and roundtables on the theme and the SDGs being discussed, 47 countries will also carry out their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during the ministerial meetings.

HLPF 2018 also marks one year until Goal 16 will be focused on during HLPF 2019. This year's side events are helping prepare the path to HLPF 2019. To prepare for the historic opportunity to stand up for SDG 16+ The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, and co-conveners of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and the 16+ Forum have hosted a side event to unite Member States and key stakeholders behind SDG16+ targets for achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The event occurred on 16th July and is supported by the g7+ and other SDG16+ partners. More information on HLPF 2018 is available here*.*

In-Focus country: Turkmenistan

Thought Piece: Promoting a Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Society in Turkmenistan
By: Yelena Butova (Project Manager), Nazik Avlyakulova (Communication Associate)

In recent years, Turkmenistan has taken major strides to strengthen democratic principles, improve economic performance and foster high living standards by supporting the development of responsive national institutions, strengthening human potential and nurturing inclusive participation in line with national development plans and priorities, including the SDGs. This includes improving national capacity to report to United Nations treaty bodies, increasing participation in the regional and global economic and trade processes, enhancing national employment and labour capacities and modernizing public administration. Turkmenistan is one of the first countries in the Central Asia region, which led the process of nationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically Goal 16 for the promotion of a peaceful, just and inclusive society.

UNDP has been providing support to the Government of Turkmenistan in its SDG implementation efforts through various ways which have included working closely with the Office of the Ombudsperson; organization of a successful MAPS (mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support) mission as well as through the presentation of recommendations to the National Working Group on the Implementation of SDGs.

In its SDG journey, Turkmenistan has seen many important milestones including the meeting of the National SDG Working Group held at the end of March 2018, co-chaired by Batyr Bazarov, Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and Elena Panova, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). Attended by 130 government officials, academia, representatives of the public associations and staff of the UN agencies, the meeting saw the presentation of the MAPS mission report outlining key recommendations such as a set of measures to ensure a coordinated approach to SDG implementation, developing the statistical potential in-country and better data collection on SDGs, establishing the practice of regular reporting and finding alternative sources of financing.

As part of implementation of Goal 16 activities, UNDP actively partners with and supports the Ombudsperson of Turkmenistan, who regularly participates in regional and global initiatives and actions of the national human rights institutions (NHRIs). UNDP strives to build strategic tripartite alliances and in 2017, launched a joint project which is aimed at strengthening independent and effective functions of the Ombudsperson's Office of Turkmenistan in accordance with the Paris Principles.

UNDP also directly and indirectly strengthens partnerships between the Government and civil society in the country by enhancing the capacity of the local civil society organisations (CSOs), and in doing so positions them as a reliable partner and an important actor in decision-making processes. In September 2017, CSO representatives from Turkmenistan participated in the Turkmenistan delegation to the 2nd meeting of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies in Oslo,

Norway. This was a useful exercise in knowledge and experience sharing as it was attended by more than 100 representatives from government, civil society and the private sector in the ECIS regions and other countries.

Following this, UNDP and the Office of the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan held a roundtable on "The role of public organizations in achieving sustainable development" organized under the aegis of the project "Support to the Office of the Ombudsman of Turkmenistan", funded by the British Embassy in Turkmenistan. Participants were able to discuss and finalize the tasks set for Turkmenistan in accordance with SDG 16, specifically for the promotion and protection of human rights. During discussions, the Paris Principles of the United Nations and the important role of NHRIs were affirmed. The roundtable was attended by representatives of public organizations of Turkmenistan, diplomatic missions, several UN agencies and guest speaker Alan Miller, the special commissioner of the Global Alliance of NHRIs. Following this roundtable, the country has seen significant participation of public organizations in its strive to achieve the SDGs

Talking Heads: e-Interview with Sabir Agabalayev, Deputy Director Keik Okara

Q1: Welcome and thank you for being part of this interview. Let's start by you telling us a little about yourself and what you do and where you work?
Thank you! My name is Sabir Agabalayev and I work as deputy director of "Keik Okara" public organization in Ashgabat. My background is in health services and finances, organizational administration and NGO management. I joined "Keik Okara" in 2000 and since then I have lead projects on social and legal support to refugees in Turkmenistan for stateless persons, prevention of domestic violence and support to its victims through running a shelter. I am responsible for financial sustainability of the organization, registration of projects and human resources.

Q2: How has your organisation led the work on SDG 16 (and what have been some of the challenges, etc)?
We started as a public organization providing legal services and social support to refugees in late 1990s. Today, responding to the demands of the local community that we serve, we have grown into an organization that provides psychological rehabilitation support to victims of domestic violence; legal aid through consultations of lawyers to victims of domestic violence, refugees and stateless people; social support to vulnerable families, families with children with disabilities, with many children, old people. In partnership with another public organization "Ynam" and with support from donor organizations, we run a hotline for prevention of domestic violence. In addition, we also support youth conducting leadership training, promoting healthy lifestyles though peer education and promoting volunteerism.

We collect and generate data in our database and then share with the relevant national authorities, including State Migration Services on the issues of refugees, National Statistics Committee on the number of victims of domestic violence, and others. So, with the cooperation of national authorities we are trying to build an effective, accountable and inclusive society where everyone feels safe and included and which responds to the requirements of Goal 16.

After attending the Global Alliance meeting in Oslo in September 2017, I organized a public awareness campaign on SDG 16 for the personnel of our organization, beneficiaries and other civil society organizations. It was important for me to make sure that each member of "Keik Okara" understands what SDGs are in general and how each of us can contribute to implementation of the Goal 16. I have also held student debates on SDG 16 to popularize the goal among younger generations.

I should also mention that while the process of nationalizing the SDGs in Turkmenistan involved the government sector, we have contributed to the planning and execution of actions for the implementation of particular goals

related to our organization's mandate. We are also active participants of the regional and global workshops and seminars where we represent our organization and Turkmenistan in reporting on SDG 16 implementation.

Q3: How have you been partnering with the UN system and UNDP in Turkmenistan?
"Keik Okara" is a long-serving partner of several UN agencies in Turkmenistan. For over 20 years, we used to be an executive partner of UNHCR working on reduction of the statelessness in Turkmenistan and providing support to incoming refugees. We are now part of Central Asian statelessness network initiative working on the regional level with similar organization in five states.

We are also active participants of UNDP projects, including workshops, trainings and conferences on SDG 16. During its events UNDP provides methodological and informational support on SDG 16 that we use during our seminars. Most recently, we were involved into the initiation stage of the new project where the civil society sector will provide its input and build capacities to support implementation of the National human rights action plan of Turkmenistan.

Q4: Can you tell us about your future planning for leading the work on SDG 16?
We are going to continue providing services and collecting databases, share our experience with partnering organizations and contribute to raising living conditions, education, health services, economic activities and gender equality.

We are also going to work on achieving SDG 16 target 9 ensuring that each citizen has a legal document confirming his/her person, including the certificate of birth. In particular, we will continue working with the State Migration Service in addressing the SDG 16.9 solving problems of Afghan refugees residing in Turkmenistan without passports, as well as supporting stateless persons in receiving birth registration from Turkmenistan for their children.

We have recently launched a new Youth Centre, which serves as a resource information sharing centre. Youth can come in here any time they need advice, support or just want to spend time with their peers for learning and exploring new educational and career opportunities. We are planning to raise awareness on SDG 16 among youth during our activities in the Youth Centre.

Q5: Can you tell us how Turkmenistan is sharing its experiences and knowledge on SDG 16 with others (or is planning to do so in the future)?
On behalf of "Keik Okara", I participated in the Workshop of Global Alliance Initiative for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies (SDG 16) in September 2017 held in Oslo, Norway. Participation in the workshop gave me a globally diverse overview of different approaches and experiences of implementation of SDG 16 with involvement of civil society, private sector, academia and NHRIs. It was interesting to hear experiences from the CIS countries in the region, namely Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Moldova on the nationalization process of the SDGs.

In 2018, I also attended a conference on "prevention of terrorism" in Rome, Italy, where the issues of SDG implementation were raised. I presented the work of "Keik Okara" in the area of prevention of terrorism in public awareness campaigns. We hope to continue to work with the Government of Turkmenistan, the UN and UNDP and other partners in sharing our SDG 16 related experiences with other countries in the future.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS – Updates from UN / UNDP:

Global and regional events:

Ongoing: 5th OGP Global Summit, 17 – 19 July, 2018
The 5th OGP Global Summit of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is being held in Tbilisi, Georgia. Representatives from OGP's 96 national and local participants -- heads of state and governments, ministers, public servants, members of parliament, local authorities, civil society representatives, international foundations, researchers, academia and journalists -- have gathered in Tbilisi to promote their achievements and discuss the challenges in upholding the principles of open government. The Global Summit focuses on civic engagement, fighting against corruption, and public service delivery. The objectives of the Summit are to promote peer learning,

inspire OGP reformers to raise the level of ambition, and push the open government agenda forward to address new challenges and improve the lives of citizens around the world. For more information see here.

UNDP, as a world leader in the provision of governance assistance, supports countries and partnerships, like OGP, to implement the aspirations encompassed in the 2030 Agenda and believes achievement of the SDGs is possible if efforts are undertaken collaboratively by governments and non-state actors. Central to its belief is that supporting countries in the implementation of SDG 16 is part of building trust in open government and it is not only the smart thing to do, but it is also the right thing to do. As such UNDP is actively participating and showcasing of our governance and SDG 16 across a number of sessions. From opening video remarks by the Administrator, to leading sessions on public service innovation, parliamentary oversight, innovative partnerships for SDG 16 monitoring and implementation, re-building trust for better open government reforms, relationships between parliaments and citizens, opening cities and transparency, gender responsive open government among others. For further information, please contact Jairo Acuña-Alfaro.

The Path to HLPF 2019: from ambition to results for SDG16+ on Friday 22 June, New York

This all-day expert-level workshop deepened engagement of Member States and other stakeholders in preparation for HLPF 2019: by enabling joint agreement of objectives, resourcing, and detailed plans of action to make the most of the opportunity that HLPF 2019 presents. It was preceded by a high-level dinner on 20 June, attended by officials from UN missions and capitals, as well as civil society, academia and representatives of the private sector. Working-level sessions covered the importance of demonstrating progress through reporting, securing commitments to action, and building an inclusive movement for delivery, for example:

a) *The discussion on reporting noted how informal (civil society and business) mechanisms can boost data availability and also acknowledged that stories and lessons-learned obtained through reporting processes can promote awareness of what SDG 16+ is, and how to support its implementation;*

b) *Encouraging more ambitious commitments to SDG16+ needs to happen through meetings and outreach at the national and sub-national levels, including incentivized regional and local involvement.*

c) *Success on SDG 16+ will revolve around initiating participation from different institutional representatives, civil society, and the private sector. Catalytic public campaigning and identifying political champions will also be key.*

d) *To build a movement for delivery, entry points for CSOs should be planned, including more effectively using national development plans as a point of entry. Education programmes, consultation forums, technology and applications, will also be required, as well as addressing the need to better communicate, translate and relate SDG 16+ at the local level (including work that's already been done/ongoing).*

e) *SDG 16+ should also be presented in a format that is interesting for youth, including linking it to things young people care most about. Likewise, engaging the private sector will require demystification of SDG 16+ for businesses, and a system of standards for engagement.*

The event ended with a summary of key messages and expressions of support from participants to prepare for SDG 16+ at HLPF 2019 – including coordination of an expert meeting in February/March 2019, and ad hoc technical meetings in the process. Further information on the event, and copies of papers, can be obtained from the organisers: The Global Alliance for reporting progress on peaceful, just and inclusive societies; 16+ Forum and The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. More information on HLPF 2018 is available here.

The 4ᵗʰ International Conference on Governance Crime and Justice Statistics, 4 – 6 June, 2018

The 4ᵗʰ International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics in Lima, Peru was organised to facilitate knowledge and practitioner exchanges, with participants from national statistical offices, organisations

participating in the monitoring and evaluation of policies to improve criminal justice systems, research institutes and civil society groups focusing on governance, crime, public safety, victimization and justice statistics, as well as international experts. The conference was organised by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Center of Excellence for Statistical Information of Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice (CdE). Organised every two years, this time the focus was to discuss methodologies and strengthening capacities in government statistics, security and justice. Relevant to the implementation of SDG 16, this forum allowed for further discussion on methodological development, capacity building and data collection at the national, regional and international level. Click here for more details on the conference.

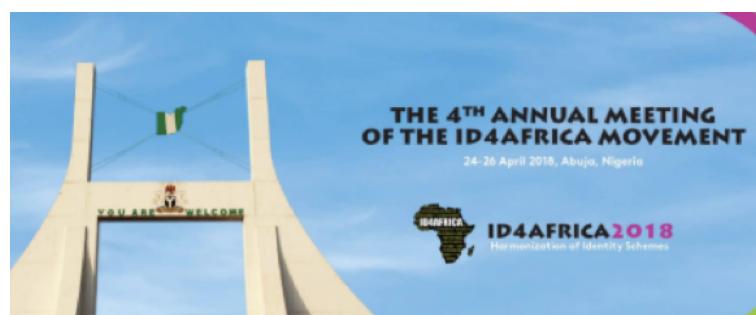**Policy Dialogue Day, University of Gothenburg, 30 May, 2018**

The Gothenburg Policy Dialogue Day 2018 "New Research = Better Policies: Insights on Democracy, Governance, and Armed Conflict" held in Gothenburg, Sweden was aimed at bridging the gap between analysis and practice and discussing issues around democracy support and governance. Parallel discussions were used to discuss policy and for researchers to present papers on governance-relevant issues such as the influence of gender and ethnicity factors, religious conflicts, state building and authoritarianism. The key note speaker was Ana Maria Menéndez, Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General on Policy, speaking on the need for the UN to engage with researchers, especially regarding the prevention agenda. This annual event was organised by the Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem), the Quality of Government institute (QoG), the Program for Governance and Local Development (GLD-Gothenburg), the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCPD) and the Political Violence Early-Warning System (ViEWS).

Following this event there was a half-day workshop on measuring exclusion on the 31 May. This event discussed the V-DEM and World Bank project to develop new indicators on exclusion using the V-Dem data collection platform. Workshop participants included 10 experts from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ), The German Development Institute, Saferworld, the OGP, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), providing inputs on the conceptual foundations and technical designs of the proposed 15 indicators. Discussions predominantly focused on the need of the index to expand to include categories of excluded groups, such as indigenous peoples, persons with disability, LGBTI, the elderly and migrants. There was also support for increased use of a rights perspective.

The 4th Annual ID4Africa Conference, 24 – 26 April, 2018, Abuja, Nigeria

This event was hosted by the Nigeria Identity Management Commission (NIMC) and dedicated towards the realisation of SDG Target 16.9 ("legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030"). The conference documented and worked to build best practice on population registration by national governments in Africa, many of whom have now created digital National

Identity Registers/Population Registers. From 800 attending delegates at last years conference, this year's conference grew to over 1,500 attending delegates from over 47 countries including national identification registration authorities and key private sector vendors supplying digital ID systems globally.

It was evident that many countries are moving beyond mere documentation of citizens, but using digital IDs as a means to empower citizens with legal identity, allowing citizens to access services. Additionally, other countries are moving towards opening up remote, mobile access to these registration services. One of the issues raised was

that there are still no international standards around voter registration, in terms of methodologies that UN Member States should adopt to ensure universality of coverage to eligible voters.

7th Meeting of the UN Inter-Agency and Experts group on SDG Indicators

The members-only meeting of the UN inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs 7) on 9th April was followed by a 3-day plenary session attended by relevant country representatives, entities and stakeholders, including the UN custodian agencies. The meetings objectives were to: review the tier classification of the indicators; discuss implementation of the guidelines on data flows/global data reporting; discuss progress on data disaggregation; and share experiences in monitoring the SDGs. During the meetings a number of issues were discussed which included indicator re-classification, additional indicators, proxy indicators, the interlinkages working group, the disaggregation working group, ageing statistics, national reporting platforms or portals, data flows and SDG indicator 1.2.2 (national multi-dimensional poverty).

Significant progress was noted in: the upgrading of a number of tier 3 indicators to tier 2; the welcoming of a new process and timeline jointly led by the IAEG-SDGs and the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities. This will engage custodian agencies in dialogue to further refine draft guidelines for data flows and global reporting; and the joint proposal developed by UNDP, World Bank and UNICEF to assist countries on monitoring and reporting national multi-dimensional poverty, holding a meeting to discuss joint support for SDG indicator 1.2.2.

Follow up action was required on the following points: the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to clarify with indicator custodian agencies on methodology development to establish the number of indicators to be considered in the next meeting (October) which may determine the need for proxy indicators; the acknowledgement by the interlinkages working group of the need to have a balance between statistical and policy interlinkages; the IAEG-SDGs' need to undertake broader consultations with stakeholders and to include a human rights-based approach to data disaggregation; and lastly, the need for increased national ownership and sustainability of data platforms. For more information see here.

The 2018 United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) Executive Bureau Meeting and International Conference "Think Globally Act Locally: SDGs Implementation through Local Governments", 9 – 13 April

This event was organised to highlight the crucial role local governments play in the implementation of the SDGs. This event was used to showcase efforts, share technical expertise, best practice and to act as a forum to discuss challenges in this area. As an outcome, the conference provided a platform to link the global goals to the local level of implementation. Practices and the facilitation of cooperation linked to real examples on the ground provided inspiration for participants to replicate models, avoid mistakes and foster a common understanding within the community of local representatives. The meeting was closed by the then Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

ASEANSAI Seminar on Increasing the Awareness of the SDGs: Promoting Transparency, Accountability, and Anti-corruption

Following the launch of the ASIANSAI Secretariat Office, the ASEANSAI organised a one day seminar on "Increasing the Awareness of the SDGs: Promoting Transparency, Accountability and Anti-corruption" in Jakarta on 2 April 2018. This seminar recognised that the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda lies not only with the Member States, but it is a collective responsibility that requires action from all players and partners, with Member States, UN and its agencies, bilateral and multilateral partners, civil society actors also being key players in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and

in particular to fight against corruption. This seminar in particular focuses on Target 16.4 on illicit financial and arms flows and organised crime, Target 16.5 on corruption and bribery and Target 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions. The aim of the seminar was to improve the awareness of ASEANSAI members on the importance of the SDGs in promoting transparency, accountability and anti-corruption. On April 3, ASEANSAI also organised a one-day technical meeting with UNDP, GIZ and its members on ASEANSAI's priorities and potential areas of collocation with UNDP on knowledge management, capacity development, audit of SDGs, and awareness.

17th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 23 – 27 April, 2018

The UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) met in New York for its 17th session to discuss government readiness to implement the SDGs. CEPA 17 considered the theme, "Readying Public Institutions for the Implementation of the SDGs", covering topics such as effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, policy and institutional coherence, principles for effective governance for sustainable development, capacities and budgetary resources for 2030 Agenda's implementation, awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants, participation and engagement in SDG implementation, misconduct and corruption in the public sector, and enhancing and equipping institutions in urban and rural communities to support society changes required under the 2030 Agenda. The event emphasised the need to ensure civil servants are not 'left behind'; the need for different parts of government to coordinate in achieving the SDGs through domestic policy; the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) for public service efficiency and transparency; and the need for all segments of the population in governance frameworks to work to leave no one behind.

UN Secretary-General Says Peace Requires Human Rights Protection

13th June 2018 marked the 100-day countdown to the international Day of Peace, considering the theme "The Right to Peace: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70". The 2018 Day will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In a message, UN Secretary-General António Guterres reiterated the importance of human rights for lasting peace, and called for redoubling efforts to address the root causes of conflict and advance SDG 16 (providing access to justice, and building accountable institutions) along with the other SDGs.

SDG 16 projects and initiatives:

National SDG 16 Monitoring Pilot Initiative
*On 28 June and on 3 July, countries participating in the **National SDG 16 Monitoring Pilot Initiative** came together for their first Community of Practice **webinar on the topic of "Developing indicator and Collecting Baseline Data"**, the first of three steps of the pilot methodology. One event gathered pilot countries from Africa, Asia and Europe, while the other from Latin America. UNDP advisors Alexandra Wilde and Jairo Acuna-Alfaro shared key challenges and lessons learned so far.*

In addition, expert speakers shared their insights: Isabella Schmidt from Statistics South Africa and Serge Kapto, UNDP data expert. Some of their observations included: Developing national indicators ensures there is ownership rather than just compliance. National Statistical Offices need to collaborate with implementing government agencies to ensure data is being used to inform programmes. For South Africa's next SDG report, the government makes civil society (Afrobarometer) a full member of the technical working group on SDG 16. Generating new data takes a long time; one way to deal with this can be to transform existing survey instruments to capture the new aspects of SDG 16.

Regional Cooperation against trafficking in persons: regional meetings in 2018

The crime of human trafficking is often transnational in both commission and effect, whereas criminal justice responses generally operate within national borders. The disjuncture between the reality of transnational crime and the limits of national systems presents a challenge to the ability of countries to respond to human trafficking. The United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT), a regional UNDP project, works closely with law enforcement and victim protection agencies to strengthen cross-border and interagency cooperation. UN-ACT, as Secretariat to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT), an intergovernmental body, organised a COMMIT Regional meeting on 13th June 2018 to encourage effective information sharing and cooperation between COMMIT countries (Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam). Additionally, UN-ACT with UNODC organised regional workshops for national counterparts and civil society on law enforcement and victim protection coordination in Hanoi on 12 June and on trafficking and anti-corruption in Vientiane on 4 April.

Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) reflect on how to join forces for SDG localization, 23 – 25 May, 2018
Credits: DeLog Secretariat

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) took place in The Hague, Netherlands. Hosted by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International) it had over 30 participants from 19 DeLoG member organisations, including UNDP.

DeLoG is an informal network of 29 bi and multilateral development partners in the field of decentralisation and local governance. It functions as a knowledge hub and a network for knowledge exchange among different organisations as well as a platform for joint learning. This year's meeting focused on decentralization and local governance in fragile contexts and on migration and forced displacement. Thematic discussions focused on the localization of the SDGs with a special focus on the principle of Leave No One Behind and the importance of building responsive and accountable institutions. More information is available here.

RESOURCES – publications, tools, blogs:

➤ **Tools / Platform/ Resources:**

Digital platform monitoring armed violence

In May 2018, UNDP SEESAC launched the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP) - South East Europe's first digital platform monitoring daily firearms incidents across the region. The AVMP complements data from public institutions with media reports in an interactive, digitalized way. This allows citizens and experts to see how many firearms incidents are happening throughout the region, where and by whom and it allows experts to gain a better understanding of the nature, size and impact of the challenge that

misuse and illicit possession of firearms pose to the region. Ultimately, and in line with SDG16, the data revealed by the AVMP can serve as basis for developing policies that leave no one behind. The platform is available at: http://www.seesac.org/AVMP/
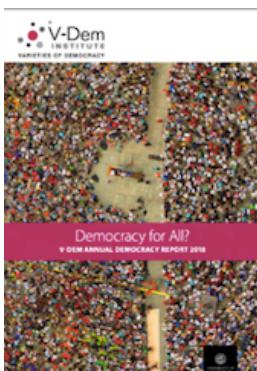
UPR-SDG Data Explorer

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has launched a database that will make information from the UN human rights monitoring system more accessible for sustainable development actors. The UPR-SDG Data Explorer is the outcome of an experimental data mining project that aims to link all existing UPR recommendations to the SDGs – more than 50,000 in total.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a peer review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council. Member States of the UN review one another in a recurring cycle, and issue recommendations to improve the human rights situation around the world. The team behind the database has developed and trained an algorithm to identify relevant recommendations based on terms and expressions used in the text. The results of this project are now available for the first time, allowing stakeholders to explore the connections in an interactive way. While the SDGs provide an overarching policy framework, UPR recommendations can point to marginalized groups in danger of falling behind, and suggest concrete measures to overcome discrimination. The data shows that more than half of all recommendations can be linked directly to specific targets of the 2030 Agenda, illustrating the significant potential of an integrated rights-based approach.This potential is equally recognized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), whose Universal Human Rights Index database forms the basis of the analysis. The new database is part of a pilot project intended to pave the way for further collaboration between DIHR and OHCHR on the extraction of data from the human rights system. It is one of the joint areas of work under the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, signed in December last year. Building on the experience gained with the UPR recommendations, additional human rights data will be analysed over the coming months.

V-DEM's Annual Democracy Report 2018

At the Policy Dialogue Day 2018 in Gothenburg, V-DEM presented their annual 2018 Report "Democracy for All?". The report found that global levels of democracy remain high, but that autocratization – the decline of democratic attributes – affects 2.5 billion people and is gaining momentum. The report also argues that exclusion due to socio-economic status has continuously become more severe since the 1970s. Intensified political exclusion affects poorer groups in countries home to one-quarter of the world's population, nearly 2 billion people. The full report can be read here.

Working Together: Integration, Institutions and the Sustainable Development Goals

The World Public Sector Report 2018 (WPSR 2018) examines how governments, public institutions and public administration can foster integrated approaches to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The report examines key challenges and opportunities for integrated approaches from the perspective of public administration, highlighting experiences from past decades both at the sectoral and cross-sectoral levels. It also examines how governments across the world have chosen to address existing interlinkages among the SDGs, and the implications of this for public administration and public institutions. The report thus aims to produce a comprehensive empirical analysis of policy integration for the SDGs at the national level, with a view to drawing

lessons on how emerging initiatives aiming to policy and institutional integration might lead to long-term success in achieving the SDGs, in different developmental and governance contexts. Arguments made in the report are illustrated by concrete examples in relation to SDG goals, targets or clusters thereof. The report is built around two structuring dimensions: first, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as an integrated and indivisible set of goals and targets; and second, the role of the government and public service, including the institutional aspect, in fostering sustainable development. Read full report here.

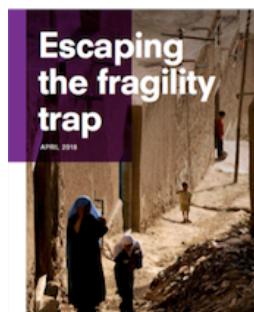**The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2018**
Findings from this report are based on over 25,000 surveys commissioned by GSMA intelligence across 23 low- and middle-income countries. The report reveals the magnitude of the gender gap in mobile internet use across low- and middle-income countries. The report also highlights the gender disparity in mobile ownership and the barriers to ownership and use. Read the full report here.

Global Peace Index Report 2018

The 2018 Global Peace Index aims to measure peace in a complex world, ranking 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the report is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. Findings of the 2018 GPI show that the world is less peaceful today than at any time in the last decade. Read the full report here.

The LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development release final report: "Escaping the Fragility Trap"

This report has 12 key and challenging recommendations around the need to transform politics and security, and transforming the economy. The report argues for a shift in the way donor assistance is provided to fragile states and also the way domestic actors respond and take charge of the development process. It calls for fundamental changes in governance and recovery. This includes a shift of emphasis from specific politics to the economic governance environment. Read full report here.

Building a peaceful, just and inclusive Somaliland: SDG 16+ priorities for action

In May, Saferworld and SONSAF produced this briefing to set out priorities for civil society action within Somaliland to advance SDG 16 and related issues. Read the report here.
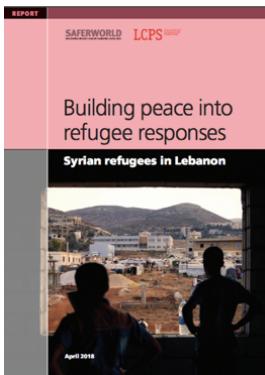
I Paid A Bribe

This online initiative was established by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy. It acknowledges the issue of corruption within various countries and works to counteract it. See the initiative here.

The 2018 Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals: An all-new visual guide to data and development

On 24th May the World Bank released their report for all 17 SDGs, filled with annotated data visualisations that show progress being made on all goals. The Atlas presents data by country, region and income group and often disaggregated by sex, wealth and geography. Additionally, the Atlas explores new data from scientists and researchers where standards for measuring SDG targets are still being developed. Find the report here.

Building peace into refugee responses: Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Saferworld

With an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees, Lebanon has the largest rate of refugees per capita in the world. Saferworld and the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) researched dynamics between refugees, host communities, authorities and aid agencies in Lebanon. The research explores the dangers of treating refugees as security threats and highlights ways to build positive relationships between refugees and host communities. Read the report here.

Constellations of State Fragility

The German Development Institute (DIE) has released "Constellations of State Fragility", an online database and research tool that allows detailed analyses of fragile states with the help of a new theoretical model. Released on 22 March, this database aims to encourage more targeted policymaking and inspiration for further research. In providing a more nuanced view of state fragility, the database offers useful information for policymaking and development cooperation. See the online database here.

Listening to Leaders 2018: Is development cooperation tuned-in or tone-deaf?

AIDDATA's newest report was based on the 2017 Listening to Leaders Survey. This consultative process involved surveying nearly 3,500 leaders working in 22 different areas of development policy. These responses provided insights into how these leaders enumerate their most pressing development priorities, assess the difficulty or ease of getting traction for reforms in their countries, and rate their experiences working with a range of external partners. Read the report here.

SDG 16 and the investment framework to 2030: What can countries learn from Sierra Leone's national priorities? By Mafalda Marchioro (Crisis, Fragility and Resilience Team, BPPS UNDP)

This blog post addresses the need for conflict affected states to increase domestic resource mobilization. Using Sierra Leone as an example, Marchioro highlights the need for these states to strengthen their transparency and accountability. Sierra Leone's efforts to align budget processes to the SDG cycle and develop a strong national investment plan for the 2030 Agenda is a positive step towards strengthening institutions and use of in-country systems. Read the blog here.

Scoring with free elections and civil rights, by Robert Schwarz (Project Manager, Bertelsmann Transformation Index)

Schwarz examines the notions of inclusion, participation and fair play within a society and the political apathy that may be involved in supporting states with a discouraging human rights record. Schwarz offers an alternative in proposing a Democracy World Cup through subjecting all 32 participating countries to a rigorous democracy test. Read the blog post here.

How are peacebuilding priorities reflected in the National Security Capability Review?, Saferworld

This comment piece examines the National Security Capability Review published and reflects on what the review reveals about the UK Government strategy, tools and effectiveness in safeguarding national security, and whether this integrates peacebuilding into its vision. This comment piece highlights the changing security climate and priorities within the UK, tools and policies being adopted, what has been left out of the review, and the need for broader debate within the UK. Read the comment piece here.

The independent progress study on youth, peace and security: the first step on a long road ahead, Jordan Street and Leonie Northedge

Following the release of the independent progress study on youth, peace and security, Street and Northedge argue that its recommendations are an important first step in maximizing young people's potential to create change globally and in conflict-affected communities. But as long as policies and programmes do not properly address exclusion, the youth, peace, and security agenda will fall short. Read the blog here.

The EU's financial framework must not fortify Europe at the expense of peace, Kloé Tricot O'Farrell and Luca Venchiarutti

The European Commission (EC) released its proposal for the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 on 2nd May. Given its heavy focus on migration, border management and security, O'Farrell and Venchiarutti ask whether the EC's proposal will fortify Europe at the expense of its peace commitments. This comment piece suggests that only by promoting sustainable peace internationally, can the EU ensure its own security. Read the comment piece [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2nd world forum on urban violence and education for coexistence and peace, 5-8 November 2018, Madrid, Spain
For yet another year, Madrid will host the world's leading forum on peace in cities. Its purpose is to open a joint process of debate, reflection and construction of common solutions that foster urban environments capable of eliminating expressions of violence. The Forum will gather local leaders, international organizations and networks, the academic world, NGOs and civil society. The event is promoted by the Municipality of Madrid (Spain), together with associations of local and regional governments and UN Agencies, including UNDP. More info [here](#).