Community Update of the SDG 16 Hub, April 2023

We are pleased to share the Community Update of the SDG 16 Hub! This month's edition features new and exciting resources, tools, initiatives, and events.

UPDATES featured in this SDG 16 Community Update include:

- The United Nations World Data Forum
- The SDG 16 Conference, Rome, Italy, 30 May – 1 June 2023
- Civil Society engagement at the upcoming SDG16 Conference
- The #SDG16Now Campaign
- Updates on the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions
- Report launch 'Building capacities for promoting the presence and leadership of women within public institutions at national and local levels.'
- Report launch 'Connections that Matter: How does the quality of governance institutions help protect our Ocean?
- 9th meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination & Equality
- 7th meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs
- 'Training of Trainers' webinar with UNDP Kosovo, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan to kickstart local training and adaptation of ROK's 'Clean Portal'

We are enthusiastic to continue providing SDG 16 updates including on events, resources, and initiatives. For any inputs and feedback, please write to contact@sdg16hub.org.

We want to hear from you! The SDG 16 Hub community survey is currently underway, and we are excited to receive your feedback and ideas. Your input is critical in helping us better understand key issues and perspectives of SDG 16 practitioners and strengthening the Hub's ability to support your work. We value your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Let us work together to shape the future of the SDG 16 Hub!

United Nations World Data Forum

The fourth edition of the [UN World Data Forum 2023](#) is taking place in Hangzhou, China, this week (24-27 April 2023) and represents an opportunity to foster collaboration and innovation across data ecosystems as well as new approaches to capacity development for better data to support development policy.

 Sessions range from leveraging innovations to measure and understand poverty and inequalities, boosting disaggregated data availability for gender-responsive policy cycle, using data and digital to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) and better health outcomes, data in crisis contexts, and more! These panel discussions, demos, and announcements will complement a range of insightful sessions on emerging trends and challenges in the field of data and statistics.

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre is co-organizing the following sessions:

- Tuesday, April 25th, 3:00 – 4:00 PM UTC +8
  (TA2.08) [Building the evidence to rebuild trust in governance systems](#)

- Thursday, April 27th,10:45 – 11:45 AM UTC+8
  (TA4.08) [SDG 16: Measuring progress and reporting challenges. Different approaches to the cooperation between the international and national level.](#)

- Thursday, April 27th, 2:30 – 3:30 PM UTC+8
  (TA1.17) [How can we build trust in citizen science data to inform policy decisions and action?](#)

Please browse the full list of UNDP-organized side events: https://www.undp.org/events/un-world-data-forum-2023-undp-sessions, and find more information below.

You may also download the [full programme](#), follow [@UNDataForum](#) for the latest updates, and browse this [series of blogs](#) showcasing how working with data can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

SDG 16 CONFERENCE
Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies

SDG 16 as a compass for navigating intersecting crises
30 May – 1 June 2023
Rome, Italy

The SDG 16 Conference

At a time when intersecting global crises are posing unprecedented challenges to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Development Law Organization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy have announced that the fourth SDG 16 Conference will take place from 30 May to 1 June 2023 in Rome, Italy.

Building on the outcomes of the 2019, 2021 and 2022 editions, the Conference will review progress and challenges related to SDG 16, focusing on conflict and shrinking trust in public institutions. The event will also explore SDG 16's catalytic role in responding to food systems and climate change crises. It will contribute to the 2023 SDG Summit and High-Level Political Forum as well as other intergovernmental processes.

The Conference will bring together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia to identify solutions to accelerate progress towards SDG 16 and promote its role in supporting the transition to a more sustainable world. For latest information please visit conference website here.

Civil Society engagement at the upcoming SDG16 Conference

Upon invitation of the conference organizers, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding [CSPPS] and the Transparency, Accountability and Parnterships Network (TAP) are spearheading the drafting process of the **2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+**. This new declaration will build on previous iterations and will have a distinct focus on the commitments that are needed at the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inputs for the declaration have been solicited via an online survey that was broadly shared across the global civil society community. Ahead of the SDG16 Conference an online consultation workshop is planned for early May to discuss the first draft that is now available. As integral part of the Rome SDG16 Conference a Civil Society Day will be organised on 29 May at IDLO as a final touchpoint before launching the declaration in context of the SDG16 Conference. For more information please contact us via: info@cspps.org

#SDG16Now:

Unite for peace, just and inclusive societies

#SDG16 Now Campaign

Since the start of 2023, the TAP Network has been focused on the design and development of a new campaign around SDG16+. The campaign, **#SDG16Now**, will look to mobilize stakeholders around 2023 as the midway point of the UN 2030 Agenda and advocate for and deliver robust commitments to accelerate action on SDG16+. The early months of 2023 have been devoted to consultations and co-design sessions with SDG16+ stakeholders across the board to shape the strategy and structure of the campaign. With just a few weeks of development left, the #SDG16Now Campaign will be officially launching during a virtual event on 16 May, from 9-10 AM EDT. You can stay updated about the launch and progress of the #SDG16Now Campaign by signing up for the newsletter here: https://bit.ly/SDG16NowUpdates

Updates on the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions

UNDP has been working to advance a new generation of gender-responsive public institutions through the **Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions.** The UNDP Gender Equality Seal is a corporate standard for gender equality that organizations can qualify for and be benchmarked against to receive certification in accordance with best practices on gender equality inside an organization. The following initiatives have been using the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions to build capacity:

- Public institutions implementing the Seal in Latin America and the Caribbean initiated their community of practices, exchanging experiences and lessons learned on gender mainstreaming in public administration and preventing sexual harassment and gender base violence at the workplace.
- UNDP DRC CO is piloting, with the support of the HQ Gender Equality Seal team, a gender capacity building recognition for NGOs working in the stabilization pillar.
- In Jordan, The Independent Electoral Commission, the first public institution in the Arab region to implement the Seal, trained its Gender Equality Committee.

- The Ministry of Finance in Uzbekistan joined in November the community of the global Gender Equality Seal Public Institutions.
- The Human Resources Management Authority in Montenegro are pioneers in the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal in the country.
- The High Judiciary and Prosecutorial Council and the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina have kicked off the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions
- In Africa, 40 gender equality experts from 7 countries are being trained as regional trainers for the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions.

Building capacities for promoting the presence and leadership of women within public institutions at national and local levels

UN DESA commissioned two reports focusing on SDGs 5 and 16 in the context of the project "Building capacities for promoting the presence and leadership of women within public institutions at national and local levels". The two reports are now available on the project website. The first report highlights legislation and policies that promote women's access to leadership positions in public administration in 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania. The second report identifies good practices, trends, and lessons learned based on a desk review of country-level practices that are known to improve the representation and engagement of women in leadership roles in public administration around the globe.

The findings of these global reviews will serve as a benchmark for the in-depth reviews and gap analysis of norms and practices on gender equality in public institutions in Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mauritius and Senegal. The national reviews are being carried out in collaboration with UNDP in Bhutan, Lao PDR, and Senegal. Mauritius will start its review later this year.

Connections that Matter: How does the quality of governance institutions help protect our Ocean?

After the ground-breaking study 'Connections that Matter: How the Quality of Governance Institutions may be the Booster Shot we need to reduce Poverty and Inequality' on the interlinkages between SDG 16 and SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality) last year, the UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) released a second SDG 16 interlinkages study at the Blue Justice Conference in Copenhagen last month. The report investigates interlinkages between **SDG 16 and SDG 14** (Life Below Water).

In short, the report examines how progress on key aspects of **SDG 16** (namely, inclusion and participation; accountability and rule of law; and transparency and control of corruption and crime) impacts on key aspects of **SDG 14** (namely, marine pollution, marine protection and sustainable fisheries). The report shows with empirical evidence from across the globe that **meaningful stakeholder engagement in marine protection efforts fosters trust, ownership and cooperation which makes these efforts more accepted and legitimate, and thereby more effective.** In turn, protection efforts, such as the setting up of marine protected areas, which neglect stakeholder engagement and fail to acknowledge local interests, needs, identities, and expertise can provoke resistance, conflict, and illicit activity, which ultimately cause harm to both the ecosystem and society. Another strong finding is that the **different elements of governance can mutually reinforce each other, leading to even better outcomes on SDG 14**. For example, regulation efforts are more effective if they are combined with stakeholder engagement. Finally, the report reflects on what we did *not* find and why this may be and offers **suggestions** for future work to make sure research translates into action.

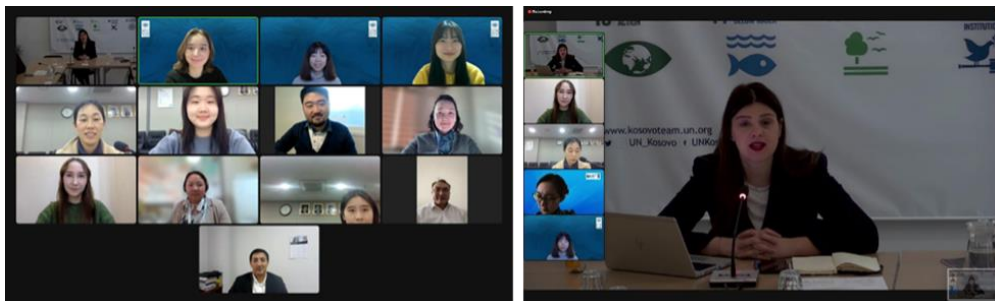## 9th meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination & Equality

The draft version of the survey questionnaire on Discrimination developed by the Praia Group Task Team working on this topic is now ready for cognitive testing in diverse regional, cultural and linguistic contexts. On Tuesday, 4 April, more than 60 members of the Task Team gathered to discuss two methods for the cognitive testing, namely semi-structured qualitative interviews and standardized protocol-based verbal probing. So far, the NSOs of Madagascar, Colombia, Viet Nam, Cote d'Ivoire, Peru and Cabo Verde have confirmed their interest in participating in the cognitive testing of the questionnaire. Any other interested NSO should contact group.praia@gmail.com. More information about this meeting and about the work of this Task Team can be found here.

7th meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

On the 18th of April, more than 40 members of this Task Team gathered to hear the findings from an expert appraisal of the draft questionnaire on Participation conducted by two methodology experts from Statistics Norway. The experts also provided recommendations on how to address the weaknesses identified. Members were invited to join a small working group who will be working on a revised version of the questionnaire, over the next 3 weeks. Two methods for cognitive testing – namely, standardized protocol-based verbal probing and semi-structured qualitative interviews – were offered to NSOs interested in testing the questionnaire in their national context. Support available to interested NSOs includes virtual training sessions and technical support from the core team. Interested NSOs should contact group.praia@gmail.com. More information about this meeting and about the work of this Task Team can be found here.

'Training of Trainers' webinar with UNDP Kosovo*, Mongolia and Uzbekistan to kickstart local training and adaptation of ROK's 'Clean Portal'

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre jointly hosted a three-day 'Training of Trainers (ToT)' webinar with the Korean Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) and UNDP Country Offices (COs) in Kosovo, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan to share technical knowledge and policy insights regarding Republic of Korea's online corruption reporting service, 'Clean Portal'. Representatives from COs identified country-specific legal and structural challenges for implementing and operating localized versions of 'Clean Portal', and presented action plans to overcome such challenges. This was followed by an interactive dialogue during which ACRC elaborated on ROK's legal framework on anti-corruption, artificial intelligence tools for enhanced usability, and the importance of protecting whistleblowers. The Training of Trainers webinar was a prime example of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a process whereby three developing countries pursue their individual and shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how supported by UNDP. The UNDP COs reiterated their commitment to tackling anti-corruption in collaboration with national partners. Find out more. *References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).