SDG16+ at the halfway point to the 2030 Agenda

Global SDG16+ Coalition Statement – June 2023

Where we are and Why SDG16+

None of the targets for peace, justice and inclusion are on track. Half-way through the 2030 Agenda, multiple and interlinked global crises – the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, the conflicts around the world and global economic insecurity – are further expanding social and economic inequalities. The very viability of achieving the SDGs by 2030 is at great risk. In a challenging global context where countries are facing multiple conflicts and crises, there is an urgent need to rebuild momentum on achieving more peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16+).

In the lead up to the SDG Summit, the Secretary-General is urging world leaders to "express a National Commitment to SDG Transformation.” Now is the time for urgent action on SDG16+, as a key goal in itself and as a transformative enabler of the larger 2030 Agenda.

The Need for Urgent Action

Against this backdrop, urgent action is needed to get the SDGs back on track and fulfill the promise to leave no one behind.

Accelerated action on the peace, justice, and inclusion targets of the 2030 Agenda (SDG16+) is critical to sustainable development, in and of itself, and pivotal for transformative and scaled-up progress on the 2030 Agenda. From women’s ability to access their social, economic, and political rights, to equitable water management, fighting corruption, strengthening the rule of law and just climate adaptation policies, as well as just and inclusive economic development for poverty eradication, education, health care and reducing inequalities, SDG16+ enables and accelerates the advancement of other SDGs and the issues that underpin them. Peace, justice, and inclusion as integral components of the global development agenda is critical for building trust at all levels and delivering on development.

The SDG Summit will be a crucial opportunity to mobilize for change to the status quo. We need to recommit to the SDGs and galvanize political and financial commitments on access to justice for all, eliminating discriminatory laws, ensuring equality and inclusion, and reducing violence, setting the stage for accelerating implementation of the SDGs. The SDG Summit will convene heads of state and government officials from all 193 UN Member States to discuss the state of the SDGs. At the urging of the UN Secretary-General request, it will also be a platform for governments to make transformative commitments to accelerate the pace of progress on the SDGs. Governments, civil society, businesses, and others have an opportunity to be bold, strategic, and accountable in their commitments to accelerate action, focusing on evidence-based solutions that work to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
Priorities for Action

Recommit to the 2030 Agenda and bring concrete Commitments

With progress towards SDG16+ slow, uneven and/or backsliding, it is critical for governments and all stakeholders to come to the 2023 SDG Summit with forward-looking and action-oriented commitments, outlining specific and measurable actions they will take to advance peace, justice and inclusion.

- We support the Secretary-General’s call on “National Commitments to SDG Transformation”. Such commitments are critical to ensuring that the SDG Summit achieves its intended purpose of re-invigorating progress towards the SDGs and will provide an important platform to recognize and showcase specific and positive examples of ambition and action towards SDG16+.
- We encourage all stakeholders to come to the SDG Summit with similar commitments to action and call on the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to ensure that these commitments are showcased at a similar level to those of governments.
- As the Global SDG16+ Coalition, we will work with partners to identify and mobilize support for transformative commitments in the lead up to the SDG Summit, and work on follow up in the years to come.

Invest in SDG16+ interlinkages and the Data to Back Them Up

Progress on areas linked to peaceful, just and inclusive societies accelerate achievement across other SDGs and strengthen the systems needed for improved and scaled outcomes universally, across contexts and income levels. While evidence exists on interlinkages and the enabling nature of SDG16+ is clear, further investment in research and data is important to developing policies and evidence-based solutions in fostering more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

- We encourage SDG 16+ stakeholders to amplify and advance existing research and knowledge on SDG16+ interlinkages, and invest in peace, justice, equality and inclusion as a catalyst for other SDGs and as a means of addressing global challenges affecting our world.
- We call on the global SDG 16+ community to increase the availability of high-quality data on SDG 16+ targets and conduct analysis to enable policy makers to make better informed, sequenced and financed policy decisions.

Tackle Financing for SDG16+

Building upon the Secretary-General’s call for an ambitious “SDG Stimulus”, which calls for an additional $500 billion per year towards sustainable development financing, governments and the international community must prioritize investments in policies that advance peace, justice and inclusion. This includes the recognition that investments into SDG16+ represent a high-yield opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to address key challenges related to SDG implementation overall and in response to compounding global crises – both today, and in the future.
● We encourage **governments to bring financial “National Commitments to SDG Transformation,”** – including around domestic resource mobilization and budgetary commitments to deliver on the SDGs.

● **Member States should host a Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.** With compounding global financial crises, this is an opportunity to address current global challenges and provide a platform for catalyzing additional action and commitment towards financing for SDG16+, including as related to the sovereign debt crisis.

● We call on **governments and donors to ensure continued investment and replenishment of key multilateral funding mechanisms around specific SDG16+ issues**, such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the Legal Empowerment Fund, the UN Democracy Fund, and others. This also includes other opportunities for flexible and accessible funding for local civil society and grassroots organizations, as a critical investment towards the commitment to “leave no one behind”.

● We encourage **the expansion of contingency financing to all countries in need**, either through Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or multilateral development banks, and aligning their financing flows with SDGs, which can ensure funding accessibility for all income levels, including local civil society and grassroots organizations.

● **As businesses** commit to sustainability and climate-sensitive policies and investments, their engagement is key for the financing, capital and normative shifts needed to secure a thriving and equitable future for generations ahead.

**Partnerships for SDG16+**

*SDG16+ lies at the core of our collective efforts to ensure that governments meet the 2030 Agenda commitments to leaving no one behind, reaching those furthest behind first, and ensuring that our collective efforts to implement peace, justice and inclusion and the SDGs overall are people-centered.*

- We call for **strengthened mechanisms for meaningful, inclusive, and sustained multi stakeholder consultation at all stages of policymaking processes around SDG16+, from planning and design to implementation, follow-up & review.** This includes the process to identify “National Commitments to SDG Transformation’ that governments will bring to the 2023 SDG Summit.
- **We support multi stakeholder Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes at all stages, including in follow-up to the VNRs (government and non-government actors).**
- **We encourage all stakeholders working to advance peace, justice, and inclusion to join the Global SDG16+ Coalition** as a way of bringing together various initiatives, commitments and expertise across SDG16+ issues and communities to ensure coordination, alignment and synergy.
What Now

In the next few years ahead of 2030, we have several opportunities to both highlight the importance of SDG16+ to people’s lives and the accelerator role of related targets for the larger 2030 Agenda, draw attention to solutions and what works in policy and practice, and inspire others to take evidence-based action to implement SDG16+.

SDG Summit

- The SDG Summit Political Declaration should include references to SDG16+ as a linchpin for the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the critical enabling and accelerator role of SDG16+ for achieving all the other SDGs, and addressing the complex challenges and crises facing the world today.
- Similarly, the program for the SDG Summit should recognize and further explore the cross-cutting nature of SDG16+ and its accelerating role as a means in which to achieve progress on the other SDGs.

HLPF Review

- We reiterate our call for SDG16 to be reviewed annually at the HLPF going forward given its foundational character, including through the negotiations around the review of the HLPF modalities taking place in 2024.
- We also support calls for the HLPF to include commitment-making as a complementary process and tool. It can serve as an important opportunity to re-invigorate commitments and support for the HLPF, while enhancing its mandate to serve as “a platform for partnerships.”
- We call on governments to utilize the VNRs to identify areas for mobilizing additional “national commitments to SDG Transformation” around SDG16+, ensuring that follow-up from VNRs is meaningful and action-oriented.

Summit of the Future

- Building on the SDG Summit, we encourage Member States to consider taking stock of the SDG Summit at the Summit of the Future in 2024 as another critical opportunity for governments and the international community to outline concrete and complementary actions towards delivering on the SDGs and SDG16+ through the Summit of the Future and related processes.

Endorse This Statement

Together, and as partners across civil society, the UN, business, and government, we stand ready to rise to the challenge and recommit to the SDGs and SDG16+. Join us and act now for SDG16+. Endorse this statement in the google form here and reach out to us at contact@sdg16hub.org for more details. Join us today and become a catalyst for change!

A full list of supporting organizations will be shared by the SDG Summit in September 2023.