The Road to HLPF 2019:
Accelerating progress on SDG 16+ for peaceful, just and inclusive societies:

Concept Note for the SDG 16+ Technical Consultation on Justice
Freetown, Sierra Leone
11 October 2018

Background

Each year, stakeholders gather at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to take stock of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2019, the topic of the HLPF's annual Thematic Review will be 'Empowering People And Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality' and will include a set of five SDGs, including SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies (as well as SDG 4 on Education, SDG 8 on Growth and Employment, SDG 10 in Reducing inequalities and SDG 13 on Climate Change).

The 2019 HLPF thus provides a unique opportunity to promote understanding of and support for SDG 16+: what it is; why it matters for inclusive development and transforming our world; how it accelerates progress across the 2030 Agenda; how to implement it; where progress is being made; how to monitor progress; and what it takes to create measurable improvements in peace, justice, and inclusive institutions that deliver on all Goals for all people.

As part of this campaign leading up to HLPF 2019, the United Nations Development Programme and the *Global Alliance on Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,* in partnership with other SDG 16+ initiatives, will be supporting a series of technical consultations on SDG 16+, online and in-person, to highlight progress on monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+ and distill key messages for the thematic review of SDG 16 in 2019. The findings from these consultations will feed into the UN DESA-led Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16 in 2019 and will be featured in a narrative report on SDG 16+ to be launched at HLPF 2019.

The first SDG 16+ technical consultation focused on justice will be convened in Sierra Leone on the 11th of October and co-hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Development

Programme, in partnership with the *Global Alliance on Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*. The consultation will serve to highlight how SDG 16+ is an accelerator across the 2030 Agenda, including in fragile and conflict affected contexts. Participants will discuss experiences in supporting implementation of SDG 16+ and 16.3 in particular, and the role of monitoring and reporting in putting SDG 16+ into action by enabling people-centred and multi-stakeholder participation in defining, delivering, measuring, and reporting on objectives.

Objectives

The SDG 16+ Technical Consultations will bring together thought leaders at community, local, national and regional levels to share experiences and key messages and recommendations. The Technical Consultations will enable members of a global, multi-stakeholder constituency to:
- Highlight key trends and achievements on SDG 16+.
- Provide case studies illustrating SDG 16+ in action.
- Demonstrate how progress on SDG 16+ enables progress across the 2030 Agenda.
- Identify challenges and opportunities on mainstreaming SDG 16+ as part of national and subnational development and SDG implementation plans, including in crisis and conflict affected contexts.
- Identify how inclusive planning, monitoring and reporting (including through Voluntary National Reviews) is or can be leveraged to put SDG 16+ into action.
- Make key policy recommendations to be discussed at the HLPF.

The Sierra Leone SDG 16+ Technical Meeting will have a particular focus on **justice**. The meeting will aim to explore the following themes:
- What are the **trends, challenges and good practices** in implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDG targets and indicators related to justice, particularly 16.3? How has justice been included as part of national and subnational development and SDG implementation plans? What are some of the particular challenges in fragile and conflict affected situations?
- What has been the **role of different actors** -- private sector, civil society, and national human rights institutions -- in supporting popularization, implementation, monitoring and reporting on rule of law and access to justice for all?
- What are some **recommendations for policy makers on how to accelerate progress on justice**? What are the recommendations for civil society, national human rights institutions and private sector on progress towards SDG 16+ and access to justice for all?

The SDG 16+ Technical Consultation in Sierra Leone will work in partnership with the other SDG 16+ initiatives that will also be hosting events that week in Sierra Leone including a) the second Annual Showcase of the *16+ Forum* on 7-10 October which brings together partners from across the world and provides a platform to explore solutions, successes and challenges in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies and b) the second meeting of the *Pathfinders'* Task Force on Justice which will take place on the 11-12th. The three initiatives will also host a Justice Leaders Dialogue on the 10th of October bringing together senior justice practitioners and policy makers to share examples of implementation on justice-related SDG targets.

This first technical consultation will build on the lessons and messages emerging out of the *16+ Forum Annual Showcase*, the *Justice Leaders Dialogue* and the *Task Force on Justice*.

Format

The meeting will take place on Thursday 11th October from 09.00-17.00 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Participants will discuss their experiences of promoting progress on SDG 16+ and suggest key messages and recommendations to improve monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+. The SDG 16 hub [http://www.sdg16hub.org/] provides an online space to promote wider participation in this event, comment on and enrich the outcome document and final SDG 16+ report illustrating SDG 16 in action.

I.   **Opening Session: Getting to HLPF 2019: 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'**

II.   **Rule of law and access to justice as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda**
- To identify trends and progress towards achievement of rule of law and access to justice for all
- To identify good practices in supporting implementation of SDG 16+, especially 16.3
- To explore how rule of law and access to justice have been mainstreamed in SDG and National development planning processes

III.   **Measuring progress on SDG 16+, particularly rule of law and access to justice for all**
- To highlight some of the challenges and good practices in data collection and management
- To better understand some of the challenges and good practices in data collection and monitoring on SDG 16+, particularly related to justice?
- To unpack the role of civil society, NHRIs, private sector engaged in supporting monitoring of progress on SDG 16+?

IV.   **Lessons and recommendations on incorporating SDG16+ in Voluntary National Reviews**
- To identify key trends on reporting on SDG 16+, particularly on access to justice and rule of law
- To illustrate some of the lessons emerging on mobilizing national constituencies to support reporting on SDG 16+, including rule of law and access to justice for all
- To highlight how the VNR process has been leveraged to support national implementation

V.   **Key messages and Policy Recommendations on Implementation, Mnitoring and Reporting on SDG 16+, Rule of Law and Access to Justice for All**
- To collate key messages and policy recommendations emerging from the technical consultation as well as the 16+ Annual Showcase and Justice Leaders Dialogue

VI.   **Closing Session: Translating Global Commitments to National Implementation**

Participants

Participants will include government, civil society and/or private sector representatives from the following countries to discuss progress and challenges on monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.