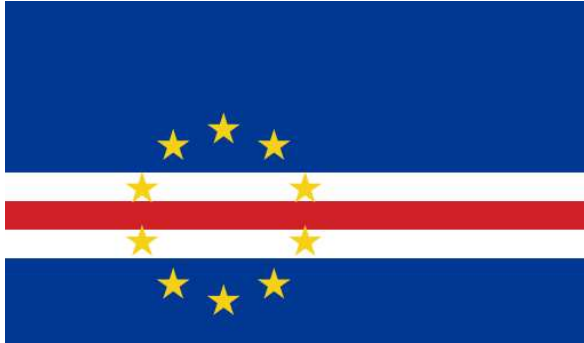




Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



**Regional Workshop on the  
Universal Periodic Review  
And  
SDG 16+ Technical Consultation on Inclusion and Human Rights  
Praia, Cape Verde  
28-30 November 2018**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

<b>Objective</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To share experiences on the engagement of States in the human rights mechanisms and particularly the UPR third cycle and identify good practices, common trends, challenges and opportunities at the national, regional and international levels to align human rights with the SDGs</li> <li>2. To explore the centrality of adopting a human rights-based approach to the SDGs, including ‘leaving no one behind’, to link SDG monitoring, reporting and implementation with the recommendations emerging from the UPR process and the Human Rights mechanisms, and to highlight SDG 16 and related goals and targets (SDG 16+) as an accelerator across the 2030 Agenda</li> </ol>
<b>Participants</b>	Government representatives from the Lusophone countries; Parliaments’ HR Committees; NHRIs; CSOs; Regional HR mechanisms; CPLP Secretariat; Private Sector; United Nations RC and Country Team Cape Verde (UNCTs), OHCHR; UNDP;
<b>Venue</b>	Praia, Cape Verde
<b>Dates</b>	28-30 November 2018

## **1. Background**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process that involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR was created through UN General Assembly resolution 60/251, on 15 March 2006 which established the Human Rights Council itself. It is a State-driven process, conducted under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, and provides the opportunity for each States to report and declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 laid out a bold vision for people, planet, prosperity and peace and has been universally endorsed by all Member States. The agenda is firmly grounded in the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law and implementing the agenda requires adopting a human rights-based approach to development to ensure that 'no one is left behind'. States have committed to report at least twice in the 15-year period of the 2030 Agenda through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process at the High Level Political Forum under ECOSOC to highlight their progress towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The complementarity between the UPR and the VNR process are clear, but more can be done to strengthen the linkages between the range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that States report on through both the SDG and the UPR reporting processes. The Government of Cape Verde with the CPLP Secretary General are co-hosting this workshop with the UN Country Team in Cape Verde, OHCHR, UNDP and in partnership the Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, from 28-30 November in Praia, Cape Verde.

### ***UPR cycle***

The UPR is currently at the beginning of the third cycle and 42 States had their outcome reports adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions – fourteen other states had their reports adopted at HRC 39 – including Cape Verde. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has written to the respective Foreign Ministers of the member states that have gone through the UPR encouraging them to take action in a number of areas; recommending the establishment of national mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs); and better alignment between human rights and SDGs efforts at national level. It is therefore timely to draw on experiences and challenges faced by countries in addressing issues of concern raised in their 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle reviews.

### ***HLPF 2019 & Goal 16+***

As we enter the fourth year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be conducting its annual review of countries that have volunteered to provide national reports on their progress towards implementation of the 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).

This means there is a unique opportunity to promote understanding and further implementation of SDG 16, as a goal in itself, but also as an accelerator across other goals and targets. The '+' of SDG 16+ signifies the universality and interconnectedness of the 2030 Agenda. Promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies (16.b), access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10) or reducing violence and conflict (16.1) are significant objectives in themselves, but also have a key role to play in enabling progress across the other 16 Goals and targets (e.g. on eliminating discriminatory laws and policies to address inequality -10.3). The focus on SDG 16+ highlights that promoting inclusive, responsive and effective institutions that focus on people-centered service delivery is critical across all the SDGs: from accessing education and health, to reducing inequality, to ensuring security, justice and the rule of law.

## **The UPR Regional Workshop and SDG 16+ Technical Consultations**

OHCHR as the Secretariat of the HRC and its UPR has been providing technical and capacity support to states and is continuing to organize a series of sub-regional workshops, to facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned on the various stages of the UPR process – especially follow up action and implementation of recommendations. The workshops are a useful tool for the exchange of practice and experience, including among peers.

This workshop aims to bring together both the human rights reporting process and SDG implementation, reporting and monitoring. The workshop will draw on the expertise of the National Statistics Office of Cabo Verde which is leading the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics.

In the lead up to HLPF 2019, UNDP with the *Global Alliance for reporting on progress on peaceful, just and inclusive societies* and other SDG 16+ initiatives, will support a series of technical consultations on SDG 16+, online and in-person, to highlight progress on monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+ and distil key messages and experiences in preparation 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.

### **2. Objectives**

1. To share experiences on the engagement of States in the UPR third cycle and identify good practices, common trends, challenges and opportunities at the national, regional and international levels to align human rights with the SDGs
  - a. To share current policies and practices in relation to UPR
  - b. To share experiences on engagement of States in the UPR cycle and challenges and opportunities at the national and international level
  - c. To assist States coming for the UPR third review to prepare better, benefiting from the experience of their peers
  - d. To facilitate follow up action prior to/after the review, including to link to Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda
  - e. To better align human rights and development efforts by creating synergies, with ongoing implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
  - f. To strengthen cooperation between NHRIs, Parliaments, CSOs, as well as the contribution of RHRMs, in the UPR process.
  
2. To identify the centrality of adopting a human rights-based approach to the SDGs, including ‘leaving no one behind’, to link SDG monitoring, reporting and implementation with the recommendations emerging from the UPR process and the Human Rights mechanisms, and to highlight SDG 16 and related goals and targets (SDG 16+) as an accelerator across the 2030 Agenda:
  - a. Highlight key achievements on SDG 16 and related goals and targets
  - b. Provide case studies illustrating SDG 16 and related goals and targets in action
  - c. Identify practical examples of the interlinkages between SDG 16 and the broader 2030 Agenda and how progress on SDG 16 enables progress across the 2030 Agenda
  - d. Identify challenges and opportunities on mainstreaming SDG 16+, as part of national and subnational development and SDG implementation
  - e. Identify how inclusive planning, monitoring and reporting (including through VNRs) is being taken forward, including linkages to the Universal Periodic Review

- f. Identify examples and policy recommendations to be showcased at the HLPF 2019.

### **3. Format**

The workshop will take place on 28-30 November 2018 for 2.5 days. It will be conducted in English and Portuguese.

The workshop will be divided into segments that would involve substantive presentations and focus group discussions including on:

- a) Presentation on the UN human rights system in general (Treaty Bodies, Human Rights Council: UPR and special procedures mandate holders). Highlighting the legal and practical aspects of the mechanisms.
- b) The Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights: Adopting a Human Rights-Based Approach to implementation, reporting and monitoring the SDGs
- c) The UPR 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle
- d) Consultation on progress towards human rights-based monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+

### **4. Outcomes**

- a) Better understanding of current practices of HR mechanisms and the UPR- and stronger preparation by States for the third cycle review of UPR
- b) Better understanding of trends, challenges and entry points for mainstreaming human rights and inclusion in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, and SDG 16+ in particular.
- c) Specific commitments for implementation and follow up action prior to/after the UPR review
- d) Better understanding of support offered by the UN system, private sector, civil society, and other actors to take forward national implementation of the UPR recommendations and mainstreaming of human rights and inclusion in monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+.
- e) Recommendations on mainstreaming human rights and inclusion and sharing of good practices to inform the 2019 HLPF review of SDG 16, as well as to improve national monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+.

### **5. Participants**

- Participants will include representatives of CPLP countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste.
- Countries will be encouraged to propose the participation of two members of the inter-ministerial structure in charge of reporting and follow-up of the UPR - should such a structure exists. If such a structure does not exist, participation from the institutional body which are most likely to handle UPR follow up action would be invited (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice/Attorney General or UN Ambassador).
- Countries will also be encouraged to nominate the SDG/SDG 16+ focal points responsible for monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 (from Statistics Offices, Ministry of Planning, Ministries of Justice/Interior, etc.)

In addition, the following participants will also be invited:

- Parliaments - Representatives of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committees and the IPU
- NHRIs - National human rights institutions –regardless of the institutions’ accreditation status. A representative of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI) and the Network of African NHRIs (NANHRI).
- African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights
- OHCHR, UPR Info and other international and national NGOs engaged in UPR reporting and implementation
- Private Sector - Representative of private sector who have expressed interest in supporting SDG implementation and monitoring, particularly from CPLP countries.

The workshop would be jointly organized by the Government of Cape Verde with the CPLP Secretary General with the UN Country Team in Cape Verde, OHCHR, UNDP and the Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.

A mixed methodology will be used throughout the workshop to include: working group discussions, panel discussions and presentation-led sessions. Participants would be identified to act as moderators or panelists in the various segments of the programme in order to share their experiences, good practices and challenges encountered in the course of the process.

\*\*\*\*\*