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## Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum (UBDF) 2019

Final report (as of 13 March 2019)

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### 1. GLOBAL progress on SDG 16+

*Any key trends mentioned? Any key obstacles mentioned? Any key opportunities mentioned?*

The Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum (UBDF) 2019 served as a knowledge-sharing platform and exchange of lessons learned and recommendations on SDG16+ in Asia and beyond, that will contribute to inform the set of SDGs and the theme discussed this year at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF): “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.” As a regional consultation, with representatives from 14 countries in Asia, the event focused on *regional, sub-regional, national* and *local* perspectives, although global trends were also touched on during the course of the proceedings. As agreed with co-organizers, sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this form were filled-out. The quotes available in the form were not attributed to specific speakers, in line with Chatham House Rule.

### 2. REGIONAL action on SDG16+

*Any key trends mentioned? Any key obstacles mentioned? Any key opportunities mentioned? Any mention of such action by regional-level organisations?*

#### Key trends

#### 1. Declining democratic and human rights values

In several countries in Asia, various forms of undermining and “erosion of democratic institutions” are being observed, including “populism”, “oligarchy”, and “growing levels of corruption” diverting development resources and negatively affecting electoral processes. This is combined with an increasingly polarized political landscape, especially in the context of perceived national security threats, terrorism and response to extremism. “Technological advancements and information flows have provided greater access to information, but with destabilizing effects.” An increasing diversity of stakeholders have unfulfilled expectations regarding development dividends, participation, accountability and transparency. In particular, there are slow improvements in the meaningful and inclusive participation of vulnerable groups, such as women and youth, across Asia. (see UBDF Opening Session and Sessions 3, 5, 6 and 7)

#### 2. Shrinking civic space

“Civic space is not just a means for implementation, but an aim of the SDGs” (see UBDF Session 3). The deterioration and shrinking of civic space in Asia and beyond has a pervasive impact on the realization of SDG16+. This is primarily manifested by restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks for CSOs, with 81 per cent the proposed and enacted laws since 2013 being restrictive in 18 countries in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific according to the International Centre for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL). Other challenges include key barriers to association by decreasing and restricting the access for CSOs to financial and other resources, the criminalization of human rights defenders, democracy advocates, political opponents/opposition groups and the media, with [new trends identified by ICNL in Asia](#) that include digital restrictions on expression such as cybercrime laws, regulation of social media, and “fake news” laws. (see UBDF Sessions 1, 3 and 6)

#### 3. Rising inequalities

There are also growing gaps between the rich and poor, rising inequity in wealth distribution and in accessing public resources among and within countries in Asia, as well as worrying imbalances between public and private interests. These are combined with national, racial, ethnic or other forms of discrimination, and the limited attention given to the welfare of communities with respect to social and environmental considerations, particularly in the context of the drive for natural resources, land-grabbing, and major infrastructure developments (see UBDF Opening Session, Sessions 2, 6, 7, and 9, UBDF CSO Declaration).

## ***Key challenges, opportunities and selected actions***

### **1. Facilitating regional coordination**

From the UN side, ESCAP and UNDP are the leading organizations in Asia strengthening regional cooperation, providing technical assistance (particularly on regional follow-up and review, including in VNR processes) and facilitating knowledge-sharing and participation in this region. Flagship events such as the UNDP [SDG Regional Knowledge Exchange](#) as well as the annual ESCAP [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#), and the 5 sub-regional meetings organized between September and October 2018, helped facilitate the dialogue between government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders. Research in the framework of ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia Pacific SDG Partnership produced [Annual SDG Regional Outlook](#) since 2016, with an upcoming report focused on inclusion, participation and empowerment (expected March 2019). The [Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk](#) is a useful gateway to tools, knowledge products, etc. (see UBDF Opening Session and Sessions 1, 3 and 12)

From the CSO side, most notably in Asia, strong cross-sectoral and cross-constituency CSO coordination platforms such as the [Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism](#) (AP-RCEM) and co-organizers of this forum, the [Asia Development Alliance](#) (ADA) and [Asia Democracy Network](#) (ADN), act as catalysts that help initiate dialogue, translate global and regional agendas into national priorities and development plans, and build the capacity of CSOs, grassroots and social movements. A vast majority of the national-level CSOs working on SDGs and SDG16+ in the region are members of one or several of these networks. (see UBDF Sessions 1 and 3).

### **2. Supporting formal frameworks for CSO-government engagement**

Stakeholder engagement is most effective and sustainable when interactions are institutionalized within formal government structures and at different levels of government. Such engagement can take many shapes and forms including consultations, hearings, forums, policy dialogues, including through online channels using ICT- and social media-based tools. Yet, across Asia, there are issues of trust between governments, civil society and the public at large, and there is a need to provide incentives for government to create and/or maintain participatory processes and open channels for dialogue on SDG16+ implementation. Identifying SDG champions within national and sub-national government structures at national, sub-national and local levels was deemed a key strategy to build trust and promote CSO evidence and best practices that complement government's action.

Using its convening power, the UN can help build trust and address the inherent power inequality of the relationship between CSOs and governments, by advocating for formalized spaces for CSO contributions, for instance with the facilitation of national-level stakeholder engagement such as the UNCT/UNDP [Civil Society Advisory Committee](#) (CSAC) in the Philippines (see UBDF Sessions 12 and Closing Session). The UN can also contribute to define clear agreed indicators on what a qualitative engagement means in practice, for instance ESCAP's work on [Creating a Seat at the Table: Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 Agenda](#) (2018) in partnership with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Federation. (see UBDF Sessions 1, 2 and 3).

### **3. Enhancing capacity across all countries, sectors and stakeholders**

Meeting the "capacity challenge" will be instrumental to meet the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda and for the effective implementation of SDG16+ (see UBDF Sessions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 10 and 11). Across Asia, gaps in capacity were assessed as a key challenge for government officials. Tools and mechanisms that foster greater inter-ministerial collaboration, including policy review mechanisms and the development of monitoring and evaluation processes, were highlighted as key needs. Capacity gaps on SDG16+ were also mentioned in the context of parliaments, National Human Rights Institutions, and anti-corruption agencies, and particularly at the sub-national, provincial, municipal and local levels. Several UBDF participants recommended that capacities should not only be built on policy coherence and integration, but also on inclusive and participatory SDG implementation and effective stakeholder engagement, including on the role of CSO engagement in local development plans.

On the other hand, capacity-building for civil society should focus on policy research, advocacy, monitoring and data collection. The efforts by organizations such as Forus International and TAP Network at the global level, and at the regional level the AP-RCEM, ADA and ADN, to support national and regional NGO

platforms, networks and coalitions in Asia were lauded. Several mentions were made of “Glo-cal (Global and Local) Advocacy Leadership in Asia Academy (GALA)” – ADA’s regional, sub-regional and national level capacity-building workshops for CSOs and effective SDG implementation, with a focus on linking democracy, human rights, peace, and development.

#### **4. Strengthening review and monitoring processes**

Several UBDF participants suggested to institutionalize SDG16 as a global cross-cutting priority to be reviewed on an annual basis together with SDG17 from 2020 onwards, both at the global and regional levels at the HLPF and APFSD, as well as other cross-cutting goals related to gender equality (SDG5) and inequality (SDG10). (see UBDF CSO Declaration).

The level of CSO participation in Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes varies greatly from country to country. It was also noted that these processes should be more inclusive, participatory, open and transparent. A key recommendation included to institutionalize mechanisms for SDG monitoring and reporting which include self-organized CSO coalitions as full partners, to enable them to participate in SDG16+ policy setting, implementation, data collection and monitoring. Shadow and alternative civil society VNR reports were mentioned as a good advocacy tool; Sri Lanka’s “[Voluntary People’s Review \(VPR\)](#)” that included CSOs, private sector, academia, grassroots, and the media was highlighted as a best practice. The participation of sub-national and local governments can also be institutionalized by creating a mechanism such as a “Voluntary Local Review (VLR)”. (see UBDF Sessions 4 and 12, and UBDF CSO Declaration).

#### **5. Raising public awareness and advocacy**

Four years into the implementation of the SDGs, awareness and understanding of the importance, implications, challenges and opportunities of the SDGs are limited and uneven. At the national level across Asia, there is limited awareness among CSOs of national development plans, on how to engage with governments and the UN around the SDGs, and how to use the VNR process as a vehicle for follow up and review of the SDGs at the country level. As a result, only a limited group of CSOs have incorporated SDGs in their strategies and plans, and only a few are involved in SDG implementation, monitoring and coordination with the government.

This awareness gap is progressively but slowly being addressed, with governments in Asia carrying out a combination of information and peer-exchange initiatives, on one hand, such as CSO-government interactive sessions on the SDGs, briefings to cabinet, meetings in parliament, and public hearings. That said, a limited amount of advocacy is carried out in local languages, and limited SDG-related information is translated into national languages (particularly in Central Asia), which further impedes the SDG localization and ownership process. (see UBDF Sessions 3, 9 and 10)

#### **6. Bridging the data gaps**

The current set of SDG16+ indicators could be further strengthened to more adequately measure all the aspects of peaceful and inclusive societies. The challenges include political issues related to the interpretation of SDG16+, as well as methodological, practical and implementation issues around data collection and statistical capacity for SDG16+. To bridge these gaps, the initiative from the Community of Democracies, [Goal 16 Voluntary Supplemental Indicators](#) is a non-prescriptive tool for state to better measure critical aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, in complement to the data collected by national statistical offices. (see UBDF Sessions 6 and 7)

CSOs can also engage to contribute to designing data quality standards and methodologies for collection and analysis. National representative surveys such as the [World Values Surveys](#) are a powerful tool to provide supplemental information that help to strengthen official statistics. With 200+ indicators and the possibility of disaggregation of data, cross-national and cross-regional comparative analysis, this survey contributes to untangle the complexities related to the disaggregated features (ethnic/ religious/ forest-based/ urban poor/ etc.) of measuring “leaving no one behind”. The World Value Survey Association is currently partnering with UNDP to develop a methodology to generate data for SDG indicator 16.7.2. With its pilot project on SDG 16.7.2 (inclusive and responsive decision-making), CSO-led crowdsourcing initiatives such as CIVICUS’ [DataShift](#) also contribute to “democratize data collection”, build the capacity and confidence of CSOs to produce and use citizen-generated data. (see UBDF Sessions 6 and 7)

### 3. NATIONAL action on SDG 16+

*Any country examples showing challenges and successes? This could relate to different phases (adapting, implementing/ monitoring/ reporting on SDG 16+) or different areas of SDG 16+ (peace, justice, inclusion).*

The Forum provided a space for presentations on national experiences from governments and other public institutions as well as civil society actors. The country examples selected below are relevant to all the different phases of SDG+16 implementation and are focused primarily on the third area of SDG16+, namely “inclusion”, as this was the overall focus of this regional technical roundtable. More examples are available in the document entitled “2019 UBDF note taking from co-organizers”.

In **Nepal**, the National Planning Commission and representatives from civil society came together to openly discuss SDG 16 implementation which helped prioritize SDG 16 in the National Development Plan, ahead of Nepal’s VNR submission in 2017. Indicators at sub-national level were developed with the government, NGOs and UNDP. As a result of this engagement, in line with [Nepal’s SDG Road Map](#) (2016-2030) a “Leaving No One Behind National Index” focused on marginalized and vulnerable groups is being developed to be completed within 2019 with the objective of “reaching the unreached”. (See UBDF Session 2)

In **Indonesia**, beside the institutional mechanisms for SDG 16 implementation within the national planning framework and the strong CSO-government engagement especially in the VNR process, the country’s efforts to localize the SDGs are very successful. 18 provinces issued their own sub-national development action plans, involving governors, regents and mayors for the provincial SDG implementation. Interestingly, policy-makers are informed by research from SDG Centers located in 7 universities across the country; additionally a group of 50 leading universities and Community Research and Outreach Centers have set up a “[National Academia SDGs platform](#)”. (See UBDF Session 2)

In **Malaysia**, the government established a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure helmed by the National SDG Steering Committee. Civil society and the private sector were consulted for research on gap analysis and data readiness, and their inputs mostly reflected in the [11th Malaysia Development Plan 2016-2020](#), which highlights SDG16 as one of the priority SDGs. This formal engagement was facilitated by strong and inclusive CSO coalitions e.g. UPR process-COMANGO and CSO-SDG Alliance, that regularly meet with working committees, ministries and representatives from Parliament. (See UBDF Session 4)

Several countries in Asia took the lead in creating their own goals on disarmament, separate from SDG16. **Lao PDR** created an SDG 18 “[Lives safe from UXO](#)” on ensuring a safe environment through clearing the land from UXO and educating the population about risks. **Cambodia** created an SDG 18 “Towards a Mine Free Cambodia in 2025”. **Mongolia** also created an extension of SDG16+ with a stand-alone goal SDG18 on disarmament, with a focus on measures to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. (see UBDF Session 5)

In **the Philippines**, the important role of women in post-conflict resolution processes through peace talks and mediation was illustrated by an inclusive process in the initial talks and post-conflict period, and the involvement of women in the drafting of legislation. The early mobilization of CSOs was a best practice that led to gender-sensitive disarmament, gender-sensitive evaluation of policies and financing. (Several other examples in Asia were shared in the framework of the Community of Democracies’ project on “Engaging Women in Sustaining Peace”, see UBDF Session 5)

In **Timor-Leste**, SDG 16 and SDG 5 were identified as cross-cutting issues and SDG 16 is used as overarching objective for SDG implementation and reporting in the framework of VNR reporting. The institutional process in Timor-Leste for the effective SDG implementation includes CSOs, which helped to design the range of targets and indicators included in the SDG Road Map, with support of UNDP, launched in 2017. (See UBDF Session 5)

In **Mongolia**, the Ulaanbaatar City Municipality, with the support from UNDP, led the efforts to localize the 2030 Agenda by adopting a municipal-level SDG implementation road map, and setting up an inter-departmental working group that reviewed 126 targets and 284 monitoring indicators, including on SDG16.



International IDEA supported a series of assessments on social service delivery at the municipal level, and of the state of local democracy. (see UBDF Sessions 9 and 10)

In **Pakistan**, after producing their own [CSO- and citizen-led VNR alternative report](#) in March 2018, civil society is engaged closely with the government to contribute to the official report to be presented at HLPF in July 2019. Those efforts to develop a national SDG monitoring framework were supported by the Global Alliance on SDG16 which helped the Ministry of Planning and a local NGO to develop a framework for reporting specifically on SDG 16. (see UBDF Session 12)

#### **4. INTERLINKAGES between SDG 16 and other Goals**

*Any mention of examples of how SDG 16+ is accelerating or hindering progress on other Goals (or vice versa)?*

SDG 16+ on Peace, Justice and Inclusion is an **enabler and accelerator critical to achieving other SDGs**, such as to end poverty (SDG 1), promote education and a culture of peace (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), employment and labor rights (SDG 8), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), partnerships (SDG 17). The interlinkages among SDGs must be better understood to avoid silos and to design, budget and implement cross-sectoral and integrated solutions that really respond to the highly complex development issues in Asia and beyond.

However, it is important to acknowledge that those interlinkages are the subject of political debate. Action and responses at the national level must therefore be guided by policy dialogue among experts, stakeholders and the people affected by those decisions; multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships; as well as evidence/data-focused research and context-specific/localized implementation.

The NYU Center for International Cooperation (2016), [SDG Targets for Fostering Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) was presented as a useful analysis to understand interlinkages between SDG16+ and other SDGs (see UBDF Session 1), and other sessions also highlighted the following:

- **SDG 5:** Supporting the participation of women in decision-making and peace-building processes is critical to accelerate socio-economic growth and ensuring sustainable peace, acknowledging the strong correlation between the levels of peace and gender equality and stressing the importance of women's meaningful participation in all aspects of society, and recognizing the value of mainstreaming gender perspectives where applicable, including in peacebuilding processes (see UBDF Session 5)
- **SDG 10:** There are intrinsic linkages between political and socio-economic inequality, sustainable development and SDG 16+. Socio-economic, political and financial inclusion are linked to the state of human rights and liberties, the levels of empowerment, human security and opportunities to participate in public affairs, as well as dignified livelihoods. (see UBDF Opening Session)
- **SDG 17:** SDG 17 is important in the context of shrinking civic space, in particular SDG 17.9 (effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries, including South-South cooperation) and SDG 17.17 (public-private partnerships) (see UBDF Session 1). Multi-stakeholder partnerships are important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the practical means of implementation (policy coherence and alignment, partnerships, mutual accountability, see UBDF Session 1) and thematic entry points (such as human rights monitoring, open government and data for SDGs, see UBDF Sessions 6, 9 and 10) will contribute to minimize and avoid tradeoffs between SDGs. Such partnerships need clear principles, guidelines and incorporate the lessons learned from past successes and failures.

#### **5. KEY MESSAGES and RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Key lessons learned or take-aways on any the above (e.g. general or for specific phases, areas or actors)?*

1) **The intrinsic link between democratic participation, human rights protection, peace and the SDGs is essential for the advancement of SDG 16+.** “There could be no sustainable development without democracy, and no democracy without sustainable development” in Asia and beyond. In addition, applying a human rights-based approach to development, based on international human rights standards as well as environmental, social and political rights, can support the effective implementation of SDG16+. There are numerous lessons to be learned from and possible synergies between the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the VNR in terms of accountability lines, methodologies for reporting and stakeholder engagement. (see UBDF Opening Session and Session 4). Several UBDF participants recommended developing ways to introduce the existing UN human rights monitoring mechanisms such as the UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies and special procedures, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) into the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

2) In addition, **building and sustaining peace** is equally important to the effective implementation of SDG 16+. “Sustainable development cannot take hold in countries where there is conflict”. Conflict and violent extremism continue to threaten future development and security in Asia. Peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts have a better chance to last when women and young people are meaningfully involved. Understanding these linkages can contribute to analyze and understand inequalities which lie at the heart of development challenges and redress discriminatory and harmful practices and unjust distributions of power that impede development progress.

3) In line with the **“whole-of-society” approach**, SDGs will only be achieved by ensuring the inclusive and meaningful engagement and participation of diverse stakeholders, not only for implementation, but also for policy analysis, data collection and financing.

- **Civil society** “has a vital role to play to fill the gaps [in SDG16+ implementation] by re-engineering their work in rapidly changing landscapes” and “must be seen as an asset and partner to promote the 2030 Agenda and SDG 16” the grassroots, sub-national, national and regional levels. With access to the groups most at risk of being left behind, they are important partners for strengthening inclusive participation, raising awareness on SDG16 and civic education, addressing harmful socio-cultural norms and practices, collecting data, advocating for transparency and accountability of elected representatives, and monitoring SDG implementation. As members of regional and global networks, they build national capacities through knowledge sharing. (see UBDF Opening Session, Sessions 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12)

With this in mind, a few key recommendations were highlighted by UBDF participants. Firstly, promoting an enabling legal and regulatory environment for participation in line with international human rights standards and with accountability mechanisms for violations and protection for civic actors, was deemed instrumental to accelerate the implementation of SDG16+. The OHCHR (2018), [Draft Guidelines for States on the Effective Implementation of the Right to Participate in Public Affairs](#) offer a good framework for promoting an enabling environment for civil society, equality and non-discrimination in the right to participate, access to information and to resources, and the protection of civic actors. Secondly, to institutionalize mechanisms for CSOs representing those left behind to participate in policy-making and implementation, with particular attention to intersectionality (e.g. women and girls with disability), and facilitating CSO coalition-building at national and regional levels for effective knowledge sharing and advocacy.

- The **private sector** is also an important partner for SDG16+ implementation in Asia and beyond. Businesses and international corporations must adhere to global principles such as the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and the Children’s Rights and Business Principles, in terms of international reporting mechanism and national accountability frameworks, as well as in ensuring the inclusive decision-making of citizens, local and indigenous communities. (see UBDF CSO Declaration) It was highlighted that there are no clear examples of successful private sector-CSO-government engagement in Asia.
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships**, such as the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) can effectively support inclusive participation, transparency and co-creation of national open government commitments between government and non-government stakeholders, by integrating SDG 16 and other cross-cutting targets in the planning, implementing and monitoring the SDGs. (see UBDF Sessions 9, 10 and 11).

Another opportunity for engagement for CSOs is the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#) (GPEDC). Multi-stakeholder platforms that ensure the meaningful participation of CSOs, especially major groups and key stakeholders identified by UN, were identified as best practice to sustain active and quality engagement. Additional efforts need to be made to include the voices women, children, youth and other disadvantaged groups, in accordance with the fundamental principle of “Leaving No One Behind” in such platforms.

4) Following the “**whole-of-government**” approach to SDG implementation, the role of a wide range of national, sub-national and local authorities in achieving SDG 16+ must be strengthened to bridge the gap between the SDGs and their local implementation, ensure that all people are represented, particularly the most vulnerable; and where relevant, to oversee governments and adopt annual budgets to finance their implementation: (see UBDF Sessions 9 and 10, UBDF CSO Declaration)

- National and sub-national **parliaments** and parliamentarians can create an enabling legislative environment to achieve SDG 16+ and support SDG monitoring by providing accurate data and developing human rights-based indicators. They can promote democracy, human rights and the SDGs, and help to prevent conflict. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), in particular, have a central role in mainstreaming SDGs into legislative processes.
- As non-judicial and independent institutions, **National Human Rights Institutions** or similar independent human rights protection mechanisms can play a major role in the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights violations in accordance with the 1993 [Paris Principles on NHRIs](#) and the 2015 [Merida Declaration on NHRIs' Role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). **anti-corruption agencies**, in line with the 2005 [UN Convention Against Corruption](#), can also play a greater role for advancing anti-corruption and democracy in the region.
- **Sub-national governments, municipal and local councils** have a key role to play in enabling the full ownership by communities, cities and regions, and in fostering effective implementation and accountability by integrating and adapting SDG16+ to realities on the ground, while remaining coherent with national priorities and policies. They can meaningfully localize SDGs through human rights-based, conflict- and gender-sensitive approaches in their development planning, implementation and monitoring in close partnerships with CSOs and community-based organizations.
- In support of SDG16+, other bodies such as **Electoral Management Bodies** (EMBs) can support the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections, including by ensuring the right to vote and to be elected for disadvantaged groups, with the support from regional platforms such as [Asia Network for Free and Fair Elections](#) (ANFREL).
- The **judiciary**, including the courts of law, can enforce the public access to information and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with their domestic legislation and relevant international conventions.

## 6. OTHER

*Any useful **references** (publications, research contacts)? Please add any additional relevant information.*

The following tools and resources (including upcoming ones) were presented during the proceedings:

### Useful tools and resources

- UNDP/Economist Intelligence Unit (2018), [Development 4.0: Opportunities and Challenges for Accelerating Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- OHCHR (2018), [Draft Guidelines for States on the Effective Implementation of the Right to Participate in Public Affairs](#)
- ECOSOC (2018), [Special Meetings 2018: Towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all](#)
- ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia Pacific SDG Partnership (2016, 2017, 2018), [Annual Report SDG Regional Outlook](#)
- ESCAP (2017), [Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific](#)

- ESCAP/UNU-IAS (2017), [The Sustainable Development Goals and Regional Institutions: Exploring their Role in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- Community of Democracies (2018), [Best Practice in Community of Democracies' member states engagement with, and protection of, civil society](#)
- Community of Democracies (2017), [The Importance of Ensuring an Enabling Environment for Civil Society as it Relates to the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Federation/ESCAP (2018), [Creating a Seat at the Table: Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 Agenda](#)
- Open Government Partnership (2018), [Participation and Co-Creation Toolkit](#)
- UN Secretary-General (2018), [Agenda for Disarmament: Securing Our Common Future](#)
- Partners for Review (2018), [The Whole of Society Approach: Levels of engagement and meaningful participation of different stakeholders in the review process of the 2030 Agenda](#)
- World Bank Group (2017), [Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict](#)
- SDG16 Data Initiative (2017), [2017 Global Report](#)
- Community of Democracies (2017), [Goal 16 Voluntary Supplemental Indicators](#)
- International Forum of National NGO Platforms and Dóchas, [Pilot Survey on Capacity Development needs of CSOs linked to Agenda 2030](#), 2017.
- TAP Network (2016), [Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (2013), [Toolkit on Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development](#)
- UNDESA (n.d.), [Open SDG Data Hub](#)
- UNDP/ASEAN Secretariat/China (2017), [Financing the Sustainable Development Goals in ASEAN](#)
- ESCAP (n.d.), [Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk](#) (gateway to tools, knowledge products, etc.)
- ESCAP (n.d.), [Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Data Portal - ESCAP Statistical Database](#)
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (n.d.), [SDG Index and Dashboards Report](#)
- NYU Center for International Cooperation (2016), [SDG Targets for Fostering Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#)
- Danish Institute for Human Rights (n.d.), [UPR-SDG Data Explorer](#)
- Economist Intelligence Unit (n.d.), [Democracy Index](#)
- World Values Surveys (n.d.), [World Values Survey Database](#)
- CIVICUS, [DataShift Initiative](#) (pilot project SDG 16.7.2 inclusive and responsive decision-making)
- iTech Mission (n.d.), [SDGs Global Dashboard](#)
- UNDP/GOPAC (2017), [Parliaments' Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- UNDP/IPU (2016), [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Self- assessment Toolkit](#)

#### **Upcoming tools and resources**

- ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia Pacific SDG Partnership (upcoming 2019), [Annual Report SDG Regional Outlook](#) on “Accelerating Progress: An Empowered, Inclusive and Equal Asia and the Pacific”, with a chapter on civic engagement
- Open Government Partnership/UNDP (upcoming 2019), Good practices on Open Government and SDG16+
- Global Alliance on SDG16+ (upcoming 2019), Best Practices of Country Level SDG16+ Implementations
- TAP Network (upcoming 2019), SDG Accountability Handbook

#### **Upcoming global/regional events**

- [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (APFSD), 27-29 March 2019, Bangkok
- Roundtable on SDG16+, 27 March 2019, Bangkok
- [Expert group meeting \(EGM\) on SDG 16](#), 3-5 April 2019, Rome, Italy
- Tokyo Democracy Forum (TDF), 21-23 April 2019, Tokyo, Japan
- [Civic 20 \(C20\) Summit](#), 28-29 June 2019, Osaka, Japan
- [ASEAN Civil Society Conference \(ACSC\)/ ASEAN Peoples Forum \(APF\)](#) (n.d.)