#

**SDG 16+ Technical Consultation on Inclusive Institutions at the Local Level**

**Tunis, Tunisia**

**26-27 March 2019**

**CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA**

**Background**

**HLPF 2019 & Goal 16+**

As we begin 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 report on their progress towards implementation of the SDGs. This year, 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 HLPF 2019 will represent a unique opportunity to promote a better 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 and that SDG 16 will need to be implemented as integral part of the SDGs in connection with other goals as both an end and means.

**Building Inclusive, Effective and Accountable Institutions at the Local Level**

Promoting inclusive, responsive and effective institutions at all levels is central to SDG 16+ and to the accelerator role of Goal 16+, as institutions at different levels are responsible for enabling people-centered service delivery critical across all SDGs: from accessing education and health, to reducing inequality, to ensuring security, justice and the rule of law.

Effective institutions, as well as “inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels,” enable people to work together effectively and peacefully while ensuring that all people have equal rights and a chance to improve their lives, and access to justice when they are wronged. Not too long ago, the Arab Spring cast light on the importance of inclusive public institutions and a more equitable allocation of political power.

The SDGs bring a paradigm shift in governance as an integrated framework, calling for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Strengthening public governance for the implementation of the SDGs and equipping stakeholders with needed capacities is crucial given the integrated nature and multi-disciplinary challenges of the SDGs. It is important to sensitize all stakeholders, including civil societies and private sector among others, to the 2030 Agenda to keep them engaged, foster concerted efforts by different institutions, allocate resources effectively and reduce corruption.

In the same way as SDG16+ and inclusive, effective and accountable institutions are crucial to the achievement of all SDGs, the 2030 Agenda also recognizes the particular importance of subnational and local institutions and governments as enablers for achieving the SDGs. Local governments and institutions at local level are responsible for delivering on most of the services that change the lives of people and which are captured throughout many targets of the Agenda. It is estimated that local and regional governments are responsible for the delivery of 65% of the 169 SDG targets.[[1]](#footnote-2) In addition, local governments and local institutions often deliver basic services and contribute to local sustainable development, in contexts of limited capacities and financial resources, but at the same time often serve as catalyzers of multi-actor partnerships and innovations at subnational level with national governments, civil society, academia, private sector and development partners.

**Localizing SDG16+**

The questions asked in adopting the SDGs in a country often relate to subsequent steps to take after the phase of raising awareness. Localizationis described as the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and sub-national sustainable development goals and targets. It includes the process of taking sub-national contexts and priorities in the definition of national strategies into account, aligning the SDGs with the national and sub-national development plans, mobilizing adequate means of implementation and developing of appropriate targets and indicators, as well as the ensuring stakeholder engagement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting the SDGs at various levels. Many countries are currently experiencing their first try-outs while building on their existing frameworks and mechanisms from the MDGs era. There have been a number of reports including guidance notes and roadmaps to accelerate the SDGs at the global, regional, national and subnational levels; however, all countries are still in progress to achieving the SDGs and trying to find best ways to transform the vision of the 2030 Agenda into reality.

As SDG16 is the foundation of and indispensable to all other goals and holds an accelerator effect through its multiplier nature within the SDGs, it is essential that SDG16 is effectively taken in the process of SDG adoption past awareness raising and become integrated in the development planning and strategies of the country at both national and sub-national levels. Indeed, local and regional governments are taking initiatives to integrate the SDGs in their local plans and developing initiatives to support transformative approaches. In many regions, local governments have developed innovative actions to involve citizens in local decision making (e.g. participatory budgets), increasing transparency and access to information (e.g. open government), urban violence reduction (e.g. neighborhoods committees), provide legal identity (e.g. birth registry), ensure human rights local-based approaches (e.g. right to the city charter).

Lastly, the 2030 Agenda also introduces an important paradigm shift by emphasizing the need to move beyond sectorial priority setting and development planning, to more coherent and integrated approaches to tackle complex development challenges at the local level and to achieve the SDGs, including through greater coherence between national and local level policies. However, for local and subnational governance institutions to be enabled to promote and localization SDG 16+, and the entire 2030 Agenda, stronger multi-level governance and institutional mechanisms and links are needed, both horizontally but particularly vertically for more coherent national and subnational priority setting, that reflect the needs at local levels.

**SDG 16+ in Arab Region**

Since 2010, the region has experienced an increasing number of violent conflicts with more countries affected by large scale conflicts than at any time in the past 30 years. With the nature of fragility and conflict increasingly complex and protracted, there is a growing recognition that the social contract between state and society needs to be reshaped, and hence responsive local governments, local development arrangements and inclusive institutions are essential to achieve sustaining peace and development. Over the past five years, a few Arab states which are relatively stable, have started processes to strengthen their local administrations promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Tunisia is one of the countries that has demonstrated leading cases in implementing SDG 16+ in the region, through including participating the pilot initiative on national-level monitoring of SDG 16 in collaboration with non-governmental actors as well as launching initiatives for SDG localization in 9 cities.

**SDG 16 + Technical Consultations**

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, are 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 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.

The Technical Consultations provide an opportunity to focus on key areas of SDG16+ that require further unpacking and refocusing. SDG 16+ technical consultations have already been convened in Sierra Leone (October 2018) on Justice; in Praia, Cabo Verde on Inclusion and Human Rights (November 2018); in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy (February 2019); and upcoming in Panama City, Panama on Multidimensional Violence (April 2019).

The Technical Consultation for the Arab States region will be convened on 26-27 March 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia, and is co-hosted by the Government of Tunisia and UNDP in partnership with the Global Alliance on Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The consultation will serve to focus on current experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in the implementation of, as well as monitoring and reporting on, ***SDG 16+ at the local level for building inclusive institutions.*** The consultation will particularly focus *developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*, and the role of local governments and multi-stakeholder participation in defining, delivering, measuring, and reporting on objectives at the local level.

**Objectives**

The Consultation will bring together representatives of local, regional and national governments, local government associations and civil society working at subnational level to discuss experiences and practical approaches to bring SDG 16+ forward while harnessing their key role in the shaping, implementation and monitoring of SDGs, and building coherence between stakeholders. The consultation will enable participants to share experiences, key messages and formulate recommendations for the implementation of SDG16+ for building inclusive, effective and accountable local and subnational institutions.

More specifically, the Technical Consultation will enable participants to collectively:

* Highlight key trends and achievements on SDG 16+ in institutional strengthening at subnational level.
* Provide case studies illustrating SDG 16+ in action at the local level.
* Demonstrate how progress on SDG 16+ at the local level enables progress across the 2030 Agenda.
* Make key policy recommendations to be discussed at the HLPF.
* 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 and Local Reviews) is or can be leveraged to put SDG 16+ into action at the local level.

The recommendations and strategies collected and developed during the consultations will *inter alia* inform the SDG16+ Global Conference to be held in Rome in April 2019, supporting the preparation of SDG16 reporting for HLPF 2019.

**Format**

The technical consultation will take place on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 March 2019. It will be conducted in English, French and Arabic (with interpretation).

The consultation will be divided into sessions that will involve substantive presentations and/or panel discussions as well as focus group discussions on the following topics:

* **Session I:** SDG16+ and institutions at the local level as accelerators of Agenda 2030 (Panel)
* **Session II:** Localizing SDG 16+ from multiple dimensions (Roundtables)
* **Session III:** M&E and Reporting progress on SDG16+ at the local level (Panel)
* **Session IV:** Creation of Peaceful Societies from the communities (Roundtables)
* **Session V:** Multi-stakeholder engagement for Inclusive Societies at the local level (Panel)
* **Session VI:** Participatory mechanisms for local decision making (Roundtables)

A mixed methodology will be used throughout the workshop including panel presentation and discussions and roundtable discussions. Participants will 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 putting SDG16+ into action at the local level.

UNDP will work closely with national and local stakeholders, with the members of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and UCLG and its members, to ensure robust and meaningful participation from across various countries of the region, sectors and national and subnational levels. Relevant expertise and participation from across the UN system will also be included in efforts to capture the full breadth of UN support and experience during these consultations.

**Participants**

Participants will include national and subnational government representatives, global and national local government associations, as well as representatives of national and international civil society organizations and academia, primarily form the Arab States region, but also beyond.

**Agenda**

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| **DAY I** | **Facilitator / Moderator** |
| 08:30 - 09:00 | **Guest Arrival and Registration** |  |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | **Welcome and Opening Remarks** * Riadh Mouakher, Secretary General of the Government, Tunisia
* Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis
* El Kebir Mdarhri Alaoui, UNDP Resident Representative in Tunisia

**Briefing Agenda** * Tanya Pedersen, Programme Analyst, UNDP HQ
 | Facilitator:Eduardo Lopez-Mancisidor, UNDP Tunisia |
| 09:30 - 11:00 | **Session I: Panel Discussion – SDG16+ and local institutions as accelerators of Agenda 2030***Session objectives:** *Provide overview of SDG 16+ as an accelerator across other goals and targets through its interlinkages with other goals and the need for a “whole of government approach;”*
* *Provide case studies illustrating SDG 16+ in action at subnational levels.*
* *Demonstrate how progress on SDG 16+ at the local level enables progress across the 2030 Agenda;*
* *Highlight key trends and achievements on SDG 16+ in institutional strengthening at local level in the region.*
1. **Setting the Scene: *SDG16+ and HLPF 2019, global implementation and reporting processes (10min)***
* Victoria Jennett, Expert Consultant: Writer of SDG 16+ Report, Oslo Governance Centre
1. **Panel presentations:**
* Ines Kharrat, Counsellor of Public Service, Presidency of the Government Tunisia (TBC)
* Maria Alejandra Rico, Programme Officer, Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), UCLG Committee of Practices on Open Government
* Hasan AlJbour, Deputy Director for Local Development, Ministry of Interior of Jordan
* Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tetouan, President of Medcities, Morocco
1. **Q&A from plenary**
 | Moderator: Luana Natali, UNDP Brussels |
| 11:00 -11:15 | **Coffee Break**  |  |
| 11:15 -12:45 | **Session II: Roundtables – Localizing SDG16+ as an accelerator for local inclusive development** *Session objectives:** *Present cases of SDG 16 + in local development policy setting and planning;*
* *Identify challenges and opportunities for integrating SDG 16+, including in terms of increased accountability and transparency, as part of subnational; development and SDG implementation plans, including in crisis and conflict affected contexts.*

**Roundtable 1: Integrating SDG 16 + in local development policies, planning and financing mechanisms*** Khadija Ghoul, Vicepresident of the Municipal Council, Municipality of Medenine
* Farida Kebri, Programme Analyst, UNDP Algeria
* Raghad Abdalrasool, Director General, Ministry of Planning, Iraq

**Roundtable 2: Transparency and open government at the local level** * Carles Agusti Hernandez, Director of Open Government, Province of Barcelona, Spain
* Mohamed Bakiri, Deputy Mayor, City of Agadir, Morocco
* Aisha Karafi, President, Tunisian Association for Local Governance, Tunisia
 | Facilitators:Roundtable 1: Luc Aldon, UCLGRoundtable 2: Thouraya Bekri, UNDP Tunisia |
| 12:45 - 13:00 | **Reporting back from Roundtables to Plenary**  |  |
| 13:00 -14:00 | **Lunch** |  |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | **Session III: Panel Discussion – Reporting progress on SDG16+ at the local level***Session objectives:** *To discuss the challenges and good practices in data collection and monitoring of SDG 16+, particularly faced by local institutions;*
* *To highlight how local progress is reported to the national level ensuring vertical coordination;*
* *To unpack the role of local governments, civil society, youth and private sector engaged in supporting monitoring of progress on SDG 16+ at the local level.*
1. **Panel presentations:**
* Luc Aldon, Programme Officer, UCLG
* Dooren Grove, Head of Open Government, Scottish Government, UK
* Sherifa Maher, Deputy Director, Local Administration Reform Unit, Ministry of Local Development, Egypt
* Nadia Touihri, Director, National Statistics Institute Tunisia
1. **Q&A from plenary**
 | Moderator: Nada Al Hassan, UN HABITAT Tunisia |
| 15:00 -15:15 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:15-16:45 | **Session IV: Roundtables – Creation of peaceful societies from the communities** *Session objectives:** *To unpack the relationships between inequalities, provision of services, cross-sector coherence and local prevention;*
* *To highlight examples of community-led initiatives of local actors engaging in addressing exclusions and collective grievances and discuss how these contribute to prevention of violence;*
* *To discuss how various stakeholders could come together in building broad coalitions for peace from the bottom-up.*

**Roundtable 1 – The role of local actors in building social contracts and social cohesion*** Maha Nasser, Head of work, Irbid Municipality, Jordan
* Mohamed Saadieh, Mayor of Deirnbouh, President of Union Dannieh Municipalities Union and Co-president of UCLG MEWA Section, Lebanon
* Amanda Flety, Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights
* Amor Jlizi, Coordinator of the Local Security Committee in Sidi Hssine and civil society representative, Tunisia

**Roundtable 2 – connecting local and global partnership platforms and coalitions for prevention of violence*** Anton Salman, Mayor of Bethlehem, Palestine
* Henda Gafsi, Senior Expert on Governance, CILG- Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNGi), UCLG Commission on Peace and City Diplomacy
* Rashad Ali, Senior Resident Fellow, Strong Cities Network
 | Roundtable 1: Luana Natali, UNDP BrusselsRoundtable 2: Thibaut Girault, UNDP Tunisia |
| 16:45-17:00 | **Reporting back from roundtables to plenary**  |  |
| 17:00 | **Wrap up & Closing Day 1*** Tanya Pedersen, UNDP HQ
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| 18:00 – 19:30 | **EVENING EVENT** *Cocktail in Restaurant Dar Zarrouk, Sidi Bou Said, in presence of HE Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, Minister in charge of relations with the constitutional bodies, civil society and human rights.* |  |

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| **DAY II** | **Facilitator** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | **Guest Arrival and Registration** |  |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | **Recap of Day 1 and briefing the agenda of Day 2*** Tomoko Vazeer, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States
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| 09:45 – 10:45 | **Session V: Panel Discussion – Multi-stakeholder engagement for inclusive societies at the local level** *Session objectives:** *To discuss challenges and good practices in fostering participation at the local level to engaging a diversity of stakeholders and governments at all levels in SDG 16+ implementation to shape inclusive societies;*
* *To discuss legal/regulatory frameworks enabling local stakeholder ownership of local development and deliver quality service practice;*
* *To highlight and discuss opportunities for knowledge sharing and resource mobilization in implementing SDG 16+ at the local level*
1. **Panel Presentations**
* M. Carles Agusti Hérnandez, Former Secretary General, International Observatory of Participatory Democracy
* Nazek Janet, Executive Director, National Federation of Tunisian Cities, Tunisia
* Mercedes San Roman, Project Manager in Political Dialogue Project/ Programme Analyst in Stabilization and Resilience, UNDP Libya
1. **Q&A with plenary**
 | Moderator:Leonor Lopez Vega (UNDP Tunisia) |
| 10:00-11:15 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:15- 12:45  | **Session VI: Panel Discussion – Participatory mechanisms for local decision making***Session objectives:** *To highlight cases in participatory mechanisms for local decision making, such as participatory budgeting, e-democracy, and working groups including women, youth and marginalized populations*
* *To discuss different modalities of participatory democracy and how to enhance co-creation of local policies and service delivery*
1. **Panel Presentations**
* Ms Gisela Barbosa, Director of Department of Citizenship and Youth, Municipality of Valongo, Portugal
* Mr. Nabel Chliyah, Deputy Mayor, City of Chefchaouen, Morocco
* Rachid Belamkissia, Deputy Mayor, City of Kenitra, Morocco
* Al Bawsala, Civil Society, Tunisia (TBC)
1. **Q&A with plenary**
 | Moderator:Donia Turki(UNDP Tunisia) |
| 12:45 – 13:00 | **Reporting back from roundtables to plenary**  |  |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | **Summary of key messages and ways forward** * Tomoko Vazeer, UNDP
* Luc Aldon, UCLG

**Closing Remarks*** Slim Jrad, Director General, Presidency of the Government of Tunisia
* Mohamed Saadieh, Mayor of Deirnbouh, President of the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh and Copresident of UCLG MEWA section, Lebanon
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| 13:30 – 14:30 | **Lunch** |  |
| **END OF PROGRAMME FOR PARTICPANTS** |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | **Recommendations for SDG16+ Global Conference and HLPF 2019** Finalize key messages and policy recommendations based on the outcome of consultation and prepare document to submit to SDG16+ Report and Global Conference team. | Consultation Organizers |

1. UN Sustainable Development Solution Network (2016) Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities. A Guide for Stakeholders http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/9.1.8.-Cities-SDG-Guide.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)