



Towards the High-Level Political Forum, HLPF 2019
Accelerating progress on SDG 16+ for the development
of just, peaceful and inclusive societies
in Latin America and the Caribbean

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



**REGIONAL
TECHNICAL
WORKSHOP**

Provision of inputs to the 2019 HLPF
2 – 3 April 2019, Panama City, Panama

CONCEPT NOTE

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Towards the High-Level Political Forum 2019
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of just, peaceful and inclusive societies in Latin America and the Caribbean

SDG 16+ Regional Technical Workshop Provision of Inputs to the 2019 HLPF

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BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a transformational agenda, universal in scope, and uniquely ambitious in its aspiration to 'leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first'. It seeks to eradicate poverty in all its forms while protecting people and the planet. But there are risks that the universal goals and targets will not be achieved in many countries, particularly those that are fragile, low-income and affected by chronic crises and disasters. As countries orient their efforts towards achieving the SDGs, they are increasingly recognizing that strengthening national capacities to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies is not only a means of achieving specific targets within SDG 16 but also an enabler and an accelerator of progress toward sustainable development. To achieve a more peaceful, just and inclusive society, comprehensive action is needed to enhance socio-economic opportunities, increase citizen security and consolidate efficient, effective and inclusive institutions.

In 2019, the topic of the annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Thematic Review will be 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality'. The discussions will centre around five of the SDGs, including SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies¹. As such, the achievements and efforts made so far in the implementation of SDG 16+² will be under scrutiny and countries will have the opportunity to voluntarily present their progress on achieving these goals to date. Countries will share where progress is being made, how to monitor advancements and what it takes to create measurable improvements in peace, justice, and inclusive institutions that deliver and nurture development outcomes.

Leading up to HLPF 2019, UNDP and its partners in the Global Alliance on Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, in partnership with other SDG 16+ initiatives, are supporting a series of Technical Consultations on SDG 16+ based on its three dimensions: inclusion, justice and peace. The findings of these consultations will serve as inputs for the narrative report on SDG 16+ elaboration. This will be subsequently communicated to the Expert Group Meeting of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to be held in May, as well as to the High-Level Political Forum 2019 that will take place in July 2019. In short, the regional consultations highlight progress on monitoring, reporting and implementation of SDG 16+ and distill key messages for the thematic review of SDG 16 at the 2019 HLPF.

To date, five regional technical consultations on SDG 16 have been carried out. A first regional consultation was in Sierra Leone³, focused on justice and SDG 16.3 on promotion of the rule of law and access to justice for all. A second one was held in Tashkent⁴, that explored the ways forward in supporting Central Asian countries, Azerbaijan and Georgia in monitoring and implementation of SDG 16, especially in close relation with SDG 3. A third technical consultation was held in Tbilisi⁵, where member states shared successful practices as well as challenges towards achieving SDG 16, with special emphasis on access to legal aid in criminal justice systems. A fourth one was held in Cape Verde⁶, which focused on SDG 16.10 regarding inclusion and human rights. And recently, a fifth consultation was held in Mongolia, in collaboration with the Community of Democracies (CoD) focused on inclusive participation.

ACCELERATING SDG 16 IMPLEMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Latin America and the Caribbean countries have made considerable progress in the development of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Nevertheless, it can be argued that while today the region is middle-income (with few exceptions) it has not yet become a middle-class society. That is, growth over the past few decades in the region has not necessarily been shared equitably across populations⁷.

Consolidating strong middle-class societies will mean bringing more people out of poverty, which is a main aspiration of 2030 Agenda. To get there, important progress must occur in three interconnected development areas related to increases in productivity, enhancement of inclusion and strengthening resilience. However, these cannot advance without one another and the process to achieve them requires effective governance as a precondition. That is, it requires governance processes that provide socio-economic opportunities, that foster responsive and efficient institutions and that enhance citizens security. The region requires innovative approaches to governance and SDG 16 implementation that bring back trust in institutions. This will require, inter alia, that the state has the capacities to provide citizens with basic public services, and that it also consolidates the rule of law.

Although improving, countries in the region still have a long way to go in achieving some of the intentions and targets in SDG 16⁸. Considering the region's characteristics and development trajectories, the SDG 16+ Regional Technical Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean will be framed on the presentation and discussion around multidimensional aspects of SDG 16 regarding socio-economic opportunities, institutional strengthening and citizens security as enablers to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

This workshop will serve as an opportunity to reflect countries progress and their experiences in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDG 16 targets, but also to make visible how justice, peace and inclusion help to achieve other objectives, such as poverty reduction, access and quality of education, potable water and infrastructure access, among others.

Latin America and the Caribbean contain representative examples of the progress and innovations, but also challenges they face in terms of achieving targets related to SDG 16⁹. Despite progress in indicators of human development, together with the special challenges presented in the region such as high levels of inequality, citizen insecurity, high rates of femicide, corruption, polarized contexts, – have produced impacts on the region in terms of human rights, development, governance and peacebuilding, humanitarian and protection needs. These

effects threaten to limit progress towards Agenda 2030. For years, traditional responses have been implemented, with limited impact. In this sense, there is a need to generate a discussion around developing alternatives and reflecting on holistic and innovative perspectives. These approaches must include tools, national and local indicators for measuring implementation.

The Regional Technical Workshop will explore how countries are making progress in the implementation of SDG 16 targets, and also how are they dealing with structural challenges, taking into account where relevant the human rights, humanitarian action and development nexus. The workshop will also discuss and consider how these practices, lessons and experiences can be replicated in other development contexts. In doing so, the workshop will aim to answer the following questions:

- What are the trends, good practices and challenges in implementing, monitoring, and reporting on SDG 16+?
- What has been the role of different actors -private sector, civil society, and national human rights institutions in accelerating SDG 16 implementation?
- What are some recommendations for policy makers on how to accelerate progress on SDG 16 implementation, monitoring and reporting?

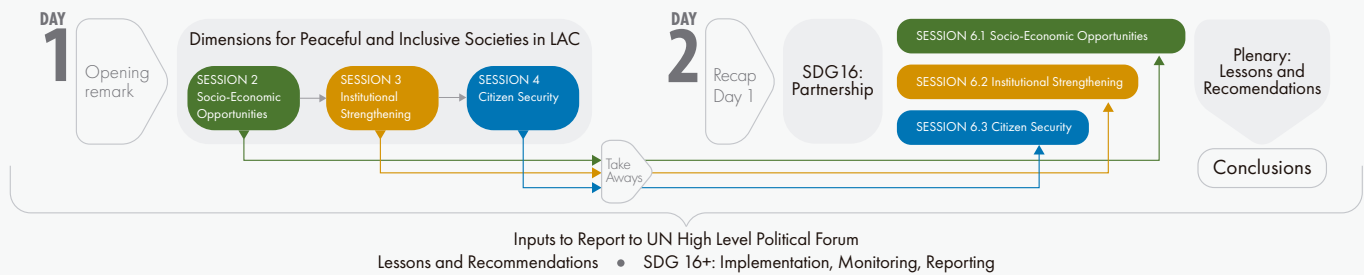
OBJECTIVES

The SDG 16+ Regional Technical Workshop objective is to understand the achievements of different countries in SDG 16 progress as well as discussing the identified challenges and the role of diverse actors (UNDP, governments, civil society, private sector) in its achievement. In this context the Workshop has the following specific objectives:

- Sharing experiences in the SDG 16+ implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as trends and challenges for the achievement of SDG 16 from a multidimensional focus (socioeconomic opportunities, strengthening institutions, and citizen security).
- Identify what role different actors- private sector, civil society and United Nations- play in the achievement of SDG 16.
- Identify key recommendations on SDG 16 achievement from a multidimensional perspective to be discussed at the HLPF.

FORMAT AND PARTICIPANTS

A PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGY



The meeting will take place in Panama City on 2 – 3 April 2019 and it will be co-hosted by UNDP, the Government of Panama and the Global Alliance on Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. The participants are representatives of governments, UN/DP, civil society (including academia) and/or private sector as the main actors involved in the implementation, monitoring and reporting accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop is organized with the support of the co-facilitators of the Global Alliance on the Reporting of Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies and the close collaboration of national stakeholders and the global initiatives Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the SDG 16+ Forum to guarantee a constant and meaningful participation from across various development contexts and its linkages to other regional consultations already held. Agencies of United Nations System will participate to tap into the widest support network and technical expertise possible.

The workshop will have a participatory methodology aimed to distill as many experiences as possible to include in the HLPF report (see diagram below) from Latin America and the Caribbean. On day 1, participants will discuss in plenary format the experiences, lessons and challenges in implementing, monitoring and reporting

processes that help advance progress on the development of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In particular, the working sessions will be structured around three dimensions of SDG 16 regarding socio-economic opportunities, institutional strengthening and citizens security. It will include conversations between practitioners, government representatives, development partners and academics on what makes a good experience and how this can be documented more systematically.

On the second day, the workshop participants will work in specific groups with the intention to dig deeper on each of the three dimensions from day 1. The working groups will be more focused and will include discussions in clinics about what are some of the good practices and challenges in adapting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 targets related to socioeconomic opportunities, institutional strengthening and citizens security. The working groups will then present to the plenary the results of their discussions with emphasis on key lessons from implementation and practical recommendations for policy makers and development partners aimed at accelerating progress on SDG 16 implementation.

Notes

¹ The other SDGs to be included in the thematic review will be SDG 4 on Education, SDG 8 on Growth and Employment, SDG 10 in Reducing inequalities and SDG 13 on Climate Change.

² 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.

³ <http://bit.ly/2TsjM6R>

⁴ <http://bit.ly/2upJK00>

⁵ <http://bit.ly/2U1WedA>

⁶ <http://bit.ly/2TYTTab>

⁷ See for instance Lopez-Calva, Luis Felipe (2019) Rethinking Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: <http://bit.ly/2ulwS2>

⁸ See for instance Lopez-Calva, Luis Felipe (2019) “To my friends, anything; to my enemies, the law”: <http://bit.ly/2JHcCMO>

⁹ The HDR “Citizen Security with a Human Face: evidence and proposals for Latin America” reveals a paradox: in the past decade, the region experienced both economic growth and increased crime rates. Despite social improvements, Latin America remains the most unequal and most insecure region in the world: <http://bit.ly/2Om2NSX>