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Outcome Document SDG16+ Technical Consultation on Inclusive Institutions at the Local Level

Leading up to HLPF 2019, the Government of Tunisia, UNDP, the Global Alliance for reporting on progress on peaceful, just and inclusive societies and UCLG hosted a *Technical Consultation on SDG16+ on Inclusive Institutions at the Local Level* on 26 and 27 March in Tunis, Tunisia. The Consultation gathered over 85 representatives of local, regional and national governments, civil society and international organizations from the Arab States and beyond to discuss experiences, best practices and solutions to challenges in the implementation of SDG 16+ on the ground, particularly how to further inclusive multi-stakeholder participation in planning, delivering, measuring and reporting on SDG16 at the local level.

A number of recommendations on SDG16+ implementation and reporting were formulated by participants during the discussions of which the following emerged as [Key Messages](#):

- SDG16+ encourages to rethink the institutional frameworks needed at all levels of government to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 adopting a territorial approach in strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring.
- Build on SDG16+ to create a shared rights-based narrative to promote transparent and effective local governance, meaningful participation and social and territorial cohesion.
- The building blocks of effective local governance include responsive and accountable local governments, strong local ownership of the development agendas and the full engagement of empowered local actors.
- To prevent discrimination and marginalization, local and regional governments, with the support of civil society, are well placed to maximize diversity and inclusion of all, women, youth, and vulnerable groups, such as migrants and forcibly displaced people.
- SDG16+ is a call for renewed trust in public institutions across levels and sectors, and between people and institutions to co-create cohesive societies and local democracy.
- A culture of peace is one of the levers of local sustainable development through the promotion of mediation and nondiscriminatory policies.
- Ongoing efforts of innovation and experimentation can contribute to better information sharing, communication, participation and data collection for monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement of policies and strategies.
- To unlock the full potential of all local actors, strategies to strengthen their capacities need to be tailored to local contexts and priorities.

These key messages will feed into the UN DESA-led Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16 in 2019 and will be included in the narrative report on SDG 16+ to be presented at HLPF 2019.

The Technical Consultation in Tunis is the fourth Technical Consultation on SDG16+ organized by UNDP, the Global Alliance and partners to provide an opportunity for governments, civil society and a diversity of stakeholders to discuss key areas of SDG16+. SDG16+ Technical Consultations have been convened in Freetown (October 2018), Praia (November 2018), Ulaanbaatar (February 2019) and upcoming in Panama City (April 2019) and Sarajevo (May 2019) covering topics central to SDG16+ such as Justice, Peace, Inclusion, Human Rights and Democracy.

During the consultation, members of civil society, national, regional and local government representatives also reminded the commitment and responsibility of political actors in answering to the growing aspirations of citizens. Participants are experimenting and finding ways to work better together for the people-centered *Localization of the Agenda 2030*. It was mentioned that decentralization grants citizens a new role and proximity to elected governing bodies. Legal endorsement and political commitment must be accompanied by concrete transformations. Transformative change needs coherent policy and financial support from all levels of government. The reforms under way in the region are building up local democracy, promoting more systematic citizen participation in local decision making. Participants stressed in particular the experiences developed by local governments in many countries to support different forms of participation, such as participatory budget.

Continue the conversation and find additional resources on SDG16+ and SDG Localization on www.localizingthesdgs.org and www.sdg16hub.org.

