

16+ FORUM

Advancing Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND NOTE



Sixteen
Plus Forum



World Federation of United Nations Associations



SDG 16+

In many ways the bedrock of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is about good governance, inclusion and sustaining peace. From anti-corruption and the rule of law, to participatory decision-making, violence reduction and the promotion of peace, SDG 16 touches on all aspects of society and across the 2030 Agenda. It embodies a transformative shift within the multilateral system and development community at large – that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

SDG 16+, which includes SDG 16, its related 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies and links to other UN agendas, such as Sustaining Peace, offers a catalytic opportunity to fully realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole, and deliver on the promise of societies which are free from fear and violence.



Sustainable Development Goal 16+, which includes SDG 16, its related 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and its links to other UN agendas, such as Sustaining Peace, offers an opportunity to fully realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated, indivisible and mutually-reinforcing whole, and to deliver on the promise of societies free from fear and violence.

What Is the 16+ Forum?

The core of the 2030 Agenda's Peaceful, Just and Inclusive pillar, SDG 16 is one of the more innovative aspects of the development framework. A marked departure from traditional paradigms, it can also be particularly challenging to implement and capture.

Launched in April 2016, the 16+ Forum is committed to SDG 16+ and to showcasing what it means to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies in policy and practice at all levels and for a wide community of stakeholders – governments, civil society, the UN, regional and international organizations, academia, private sector and media.

A partnership between the Member States of Australia, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, and Tunisia, the g7+ and WFUNA, the 16+ Forum provides a platform to share best practices, while applying SDG 16+ as a lynchpin from which to explore and strengthen interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, and to others, such as Sustaining Peace.

In short, the 16+ Forum provides a platform to demonstrate SDG 16+ in policy and practice, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and across countries and contexts. Through its gatherings, events and publications, it facilitates dialogue and exchange, capturing lessons learned while convening a variety of stakeholders to advance meaningful and universal implementation of SDG 16+ and the 2030 Agenda.

With an eye to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum in July, the SDG Summit in September and beyond, the 16+ Forum, in collaboration with partner initiatives, platforms and networks, is furthering the movement for SDG 16+ and our collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind. WFUNA is the Secretariat of the 16+ Forum.



What Does the 16+ Forum Do?

The Annual Showcase

In September 2016, WFUNA, together with the original 16+ Forum Partners, announced the Annual Showcase, a collective undertaking to showcase SDG 16+ in action—what implementation looks like, how to go about it, and lessons learned. Held on a yearly basis, the Annual Showcase takes place in a 16+ Forum member country. Each opens with a focus on the host country, while then broadening the lens to include a variety of country and regional contexts.

With wide-ranging participation of governments, local and international civil society organizations, members of the UN system, regional and international organizations, the private sector and academia, the Showcase provides a yearly opportunity to highlight steps taken at national and local levels towards SDG 16+ implementation, inclusive of challenges, successes and solutions.

With 150-180 participants from about thirty countries, it highlights the catalytic value of peace, justice, human rights and inclusion, and how global rhetoric translates into tangible impact on people’s lives.



As part of each Annual Showcase, a **Capacity-building Workshop** is held with civil society organizations to strengthen their understanding of SDG 16+ and how to effectively engage on SDG 16+ advocacy and implementation at local and national levels.

Field Visits to government institutions and civil society organizations further demonstrate SDG 16+ in practice. Days three and four of the Main Conference consist of **Plenary and Breakout Sessions**, highlighting both the host country’s experiences in advancing SDG 16+, as well as those of other national contexts present.



The Annual Showcase has also proved useful for hosts governments in strengthening inter-ministerial/agency coordination and processes around nationalizing SDG 16+ related policies and programmes, while also bolstering the visibility and capacity of local civil society organizations.

Through each component of the Annual Showcase, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, inclusion, and local and national ownership is highlighted.

Following the Annual Showcase, an Outcome Document is produced, capturing the most salient best practices and lessons learned, as well as key policy take-aways across country and context. Each is submitted as official input to the subsequent High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July.

The inaugural Annual Showcase was held in Tbilisi, Georgia in the fall of 2017. For more information and shared resources, including the Outcome Document, please see here: <http://www.wfuna.org/16-forum-annual-showcase-2017>.



Opening with a focus on peace and providing a regional angle to SDG 16+, the 2018 Annual Showcase was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone in October with more information to be found here: <http://www.wfuna.org/16-forum-annual-showcase-2018>.

Going forward in 2019, WFUNA looks forward to holding the 3rd 16+ Forum Annual Showcase in Dili, Timor-Leste in October. This will be the first Showcase ever to be held in Asia.

Sessions and Side-Events

The Annual Showcase is complemented by side-events held particularly on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). These events bring lessons from the field to New York, while taking advantage of high-level participation already present for HLPF and UNGA.

Particularly for the HLPF, such side-events further articulate the interlinkages between SDG 16+ and the 2030 Agenda as captured through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. The first 16+ Forum HLPF Mid-Year Expo was in July 2017, followed by side-events focused on inclusion, civil society and SDG 16+ in 2018.

Also in 2018, the 16+ Forum significantly stepped up its partnership with the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies to more coherently and collaboratively advance SDG 16+.

In addition to high-level meetings and expert retreats, the three initiatives held joint side events over HLPF and UNGA in 2018 focused on: Standing up for SDG 16+, the Path to HLPF 2019.

As we move into 2019, such side-events help to maintain focus and political support for SDG 16+, furthering its implementation across stakeholders and amidst various agendas and priorities.

The 16+ Forum is now planning for HLPF 2019, at which SDG 16 will be under review, among other SDGs, and the SDG Summit in September. Through both, the 16+ Forum will continue to work with partners in connecting the local to the global and providing a space for inclusivity and an impact-oriented focus within the SDG 16+ space.



What Will We Achieve?

In a sea of dynamic multilateral agendas, UN General Assemblies and High-level Political Forums, the 16+ Forum offers focus on SDG16+.

Through its gatherings and resources, the 16+ Forum achieves or contributes the following outcomes:

1. Focus on SDG 16+ implementation at local, national and regional levels- connecting the global to the local
2. Sharing of best practices in SDG 16+ implementation, across stakeholders and inclusive of challenges, successes and solutions (primarily through the Annual Showcase)
3. Capturing of lessons learned and national-level experiences in SDG 16+ through the Outcome Document, also submitted to subsequent HLPF as official input and review
4. Strengthened capacity for civil society actors, at all levels, focusing on SDG 16+



Sixteen Plus Forum

5. Increased number of stakeholders to actively support and advance SDG 16+, from member states to civil society, the private sector, academia and others
6. Bringing together the various communities and stakeholders working on SDG 16+ at the national level and through the Annual Showcase (a particularly unique contribution to the larger SDG 16+ ecosystems)

In sum, the 16+ Forum aims to contribute to the SDG 16+ community of practice, while strengthening and building the movement for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Complementarity – the 16+ Forum is intended to complement and support the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda, as well as other SDG 16+ initiatives and partners within the UN Community. The 16+ Forum promotes a whole-of-society approach and so further welcomes collaboration with all stakeholders.

National Ownership and Awareness Raising – recognizing the broad scope of issues covered under SDG 16+ and the wider 2030 Agenda, the Annual Showcase and other 16+ Forum activity will be grounded in national, local and regional ownership. This fits closely with the principles underpinning implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

Universality – mirroring the universality of the 2030 Agenda, participation in the 16+ Forum will be balanced with representation from around the globe. Each year, the Annual Showcase will aim to rotate to a different region, ensuring participation of diverse stakeholders, multilateral cooperation and highlighting SDG 16+ implementation within varied contexts.

What Are Our Principles?

Inclusivity – bringing together governments and civil society from local, national and international levels, the UN, regional and international organizations, the private sector and others, we promote learning, exchange and partnership through inclusivity. Any Member State is welcome to join the 16+ Forum. Civil society and other stakeholders are integral, with equal opportunity to present their contributions alongside Member States.

Solutions-Oriented – action and implementation at all levels has to match the ambition of the SDGs. Recognizing that one size does not fit all, the project will seek to foster mutual learning between different national and regional contexts, in a view to support global implementation.

16+ Forum Members

The 16+ Forum is comprised of 12 Member States, the g7+ and WFUNA, as its Secretariat.



The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations



The g7+ Secretariat



World Federation of United Nations Associations