

Position Paper by 2030Watch on SDG 16 Monitoring

SDG16 is crucial for achieving all SDGs, particularly those relating to good governance.

1. SDG16 is crucial for the implementation of all seventeen SDGs as it relates to peaceful societies and good governance.
2. Many of the 169 targets of the SDGs have been part of earlier political commitments like the Rio Declaration, the MDGs or other specific UN commitments but were not achieved so far. In many cases the reason for this failure is insufficient governance. In many cases political decisions were not guided by an interest for the common good, but by individual interests of politicians, companies or constituencies.
3. To achieve all SDGs it is critical that political decision making is transparent, accountable, participatory, inclusive and effective.
4. In discussions on SDG 16 most people (both NGOs and governments) focus on peace, anti-corruption and violence. These topics are extremely important. However, other SDG 16 topics that relate to the quality of governance like rule of law, participation and transparent institutions are at times neglected.

IAEG indicators are insufficient to monitor the SDG 16 targets.

5. The official IAEG indicators reflect the SDG 16 targets only very partially.
 - a. 16.3. Access to justice in case of human rights violations by transnational companies is not addressed
 - b. 16.3. Impunity, particularly by politicians and large companies is not addressed
 - c. 16.6. Undue influence on political decision making through party funding or lobbying is not addressed.
 - d. 16.6. The transparency of political processes is not covered by indicators, for example the transparency of
 - i. government budgets
 - ii. government spending
 - iii. the legislative process
 - iv. negotiations on international treaties
 - v. lobby activities
 - vi. party funding and politicians' vested interests and incomes

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6. The governance targets are mostly vague, leave a lot of room for interpretation and are hard to operationalize.
7. The specific responsibility of high-income countries is often neglected in the official IAEG indicators.
 - a. 16.4. Tax policies and laws facilitating illicit financial flows (tax havens) or transparency regulations regarding beneficial ownership facilitating illicit financial flows by companies are not addressed.
 - b. 16.4. Regulations and laws facilitating illicit arms trade and exports to countries where the application of weapon trade regulations are not ensured are not addressed.

Data for SDG 16

8. Data for many IAEG indicators for SDG 16 is not available. For some indicators data is available from civil society sources, from research institutes and multilateral organisations.
 - a. The Walk Free Foundation publishes the [Global Slavery Index](#) relevant for SDG. 16.2 with data on slavery and government measures against slavery.
 - b. For SDG 16.4 on illicit financial flows the [Financial Secrecy Index](#) by the Tax Justice Network can be used. In addition in 2013 the OECD published a [report](#) rating the implementation of OECD countries' measures against illicit financial flows. This report should be updated and used for monitoring SDG 16.4.
 - c. For SDG 16.4 on illicit arms trade the [Transparency Tracker](#) by Saferworld can be used for EU countries. In addition, the [Small Arms Survey](#) maps the transparency of small arms exports around the world.
 - d. For SDG 16.6 the OECD Indicators for Regulatory Policy and Governance can be used - though they need to be quantified. Access Info has done a [study](#) on the transparency of decision making in 12 European countries. This data collection could be expanded on for more countries.
 - e. For SDG 16.7 on representative decision making voter turnout data by the OECD can be used. In addition the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) [has data](#) for other countries and other aspects on elections and provides guidance on assessing the state of democratic accountability.
 - f. Relevant for SDG 16.5., SDG 16.6 and SDG 16.7 is the data from the [Money, Politics and Transparency](#) Project by the Sunlight Foundation, Global Integrity and the Electoral Integrity Project. The data is from 2013 and 2014 and needs updating.

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- g. For SDG 16.10 Access Info and the Center for Law and Democracy provide a [rating of the Freedom of Information Legislation](#) based on 61 indicators. In addition, the transparency of governments can be measured by the [OpenDataBarometer](#) by the Web Foundation and the [Open Data Index](#) by Open Knowledge International. Finally, Open Corporates [measures](#) the transparency of company registration in countries around the world.
9. Using existing data sources that cover only a few countries should still be used for SDG monitoring to promote the discussion on potential indicators and to mobilise resources to extend the scope of existing indices.
10. International NGO networks can come together to collect data on government policies conducive for achieving the SDGs, e.g. for curbing illicit financial flows, human trafficking or lobbying.

2030Watch is a project by the Open Knowledge Foundation Germany to monitor the SDG implementation in Germany and compare it with other OECD countries. We use official and unofficial data.

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