

# Moving forward: Policy and programming recommendations

To meet SDG 16+ within the next 11 years of the 2030 agenda, this report draws together a set of key recommendations directed at a range of key stakeholders. These recommendations are clustered under four headings: effective implementation; ‘whole of government’ approach; ‘whole of society’ approach; and measurement and monitoring.

## EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION



### 1. Political leadership and investment to implement SDG 16+

- Governments need to increase people’s awareness of plans and policies to implement SDG 16+ to ensure public ownership and support.
- Governments need to enhance domestic resources including through broad partnerships with traditional and non-traditional actors.
- International organizations and other providers of technical assistance need to provide technical support that is grounded in local realities, carefully sequenced in terms of priorities, coordinated with other donor and domestic programmes, financed sustainably and does no harm. International and regional actors should support cross country learning and exchange, accompanying countries in piloting approaches and taking these to scale.



### 2. Making effective links between justice, peace and inclusion

- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to continuously assess how peace, justice and inclusion are inter-connected and identify the root causes and drivers of conflict, injustice and exclusion.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to strengthen institutions, including multilateral institutions, to tackle the root causes and drivers of poverty, forced displacement, statelessness and the marginalization of people.
- Multilateral and bilateral institutions need to acknowledge and provide countries with the time and space to assess how peace, justice and inclusion are inter-connected and which root causes and drivers of conflict, injustice and exclusion are relevant to a given context.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to fully recognize and strengthen informal justice institutions such as alternative dispute resolution and paralegal services and strengthen linkages through legislation and policy between informal legal mechanisms and the formal justice sector.

- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to strengthen transitional justice mechanisms to deal with grievances post-conflict.
- Governments and non-governmental stakeholders need to address official gender bias in justice delivery, expand the provision of legal aid, and increase the participation of women in justice delivery.



### 3. Implementation and monitoring mechanisms for SDG 16+

- Governments need to reform existing coordination mechanisms to be more fit for purpose in connecting a broader range of institutions (government and non-governmental) to work through SDG 16+ priorities, establish baselines and identify policies and programmes to accelerate and monitor progress. This coordination should happen at multiple levels.
- Governments and UN agencies need to support the participation of ordinary people in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 16+, especially women, youth and those population groups without citizenship status who are currently largely absent from SDG 16 action.



### 4. Utilizing human rights mechanisms

- Countries need to more actively link SDG implementation and follow up to human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- UN human rights mechanisms need to more systematically include the monitoring of the SDGs in their work to help reinforce equality and non-discrimination, as well as to direct attention to the most vulnerable. This would provide an added means of accountability through independent mechanisms.
- UN member states should more actively use the UPR to help monitor the SDGs. UN special procedures could incorporate monitoring of the SDGs into thematic and country visit reports. UN treaty bodies could incorporate the monitoring of the SDGs into their examination of state parties' reports, making recommendations that link Human Rights and the SDGs.
- UN agencies and governments need to strengthen collaboration between UPR/Human Rights reporting and SDGs/Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting.
- Governments need to strengthen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to play a central role in SDG implementation.

## WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH



### 1. Ensuring policy coherence in SDG implementation

- Governments need to reform institutional arrangements to work across sectors both vertically and horizontally.
- Political leadership is needed to promote and incentivize coordination and collaboration across institutions at all levels.
- Governments, UN agencies and donors need to prioritize investing in capacities of the government and other stakeholders to work collectively.



## 2. Involving sub-national stakeholders

- Governments should privilege local-level consultation mechanisms on SDG prioritization, planning and monitoring.
- Regional and local governments should use the opportunity of localizing the SDGs to pursue open government initiatives.
- Sub-national governments need to establish local SDG implementation plans linked to national SDG/development plans.
- Local government and statistics offices need to establish baselines and monitor locally, drawing on sources of data relevant to local priorities.

## WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH



### 1. Enabling Consultation and Civic Space

- Governments and UN agencies need to improve multi-stakeholder consultations to be not only inclusive, but also meaningful, participatory and safe.
- Governments and UN agencies should intensify efforts to include and support the participation of the most marginalized groups, including those without citizenship status, and those who live outside their country, such as refugees.
- Governments and UN agencies need to include civil society in all its diversity in all phases of SDG implementation, including policy prioritization and implementation, monitoring progress and reporting.
- Governments should institutionalize stakeholder engagement within formal government structures and at different levels of government.
- Shrinking civic space is having a pervasive impact on the realization of the SDGs, particularly SDG 16+. Restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as barriers to association and access to financial and other resources, must be lifted by governments.



### 2. Public-Private Partnerships

- Governments should ensure that Public-Private Partnerships are underpinned by fundamental governance principles, such as inclusive engagement, accountability and transparency.

## MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING



### 1. Political and financial investments in SDG 16+ data and statistics

- Countries need to promote and fortify the independence of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to fulfil their dual roles as primary generators of data and as coordinators of national monitoring systems. This needs to be carried out in an impartial way and in line with international standards, including respect for the human rights of people who have shared their information with these bodies.

- Countries need to ensure that NSOs are adequately resourced and capacitated to develop and implement monitoring and accountability frameworks, including national quality assurance frameworks for statistics across all entities of a national statistical system.
- Countries need to become more engaged in producing data that covers issues related to SDG 16 and to overcome resistance in the production and use of official statistics on sensitive topics and those that are perceived to be difficult to measure.
- The UN should develop international methodologies and standards to ensure the measurability and comparability of data that is reported.
- The UN needs to adopt an open innovation philosophy and support innovative methodologies and multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen national statistical systems and bring about a data revolution.



## 2. Involving a broad range of data producers to address data gaps

- NSOs and governments can benefit from a range of non-statistical sources, including non-official data to track SDG 16. CSOs, academia and the private sector are all producing important data, providing valuable context and complementary information.
- Engaging public-private partnerships is the way forward. At the same time, it is also important to ensure that the private sector uses and shares data ethically.
- Governments and UN agencies should promote partnerships between the government, civil society, youth and the private sector to increase the quality and availability of data.
- UN agencies should encourage member states and other stakeholders to support institutional cooperation between NHRIs and NSOs to improve the inclusion of groups that are at risk of being left behind in data collection efforts.
- Member states and other stakeholders should adopt complementary human rights indicators, such as those that are part of internationally recognized human rights mechanisms to reinforce linkages between human rights and SDGs.



## 3. Data disaggregation to ensure no one is left behind

- Countries need to invest in data sources (surveys, census, administrative data) to more effectively understand disparities across population groups, including vulnerable population groups.
- Countries need to audit the availability and quality of data that is disaggregated to ensure the visibility of vulnerable groups within SDG monitoring and implementation, including those who are forcibly displaced or stateless. Countries should also support international efforts to improve standards, guidance and capacity building in this regard such as the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS).
- Countries should consider if targeted data collection tools are needed to cover those furthest behind, including those forcibly displaced, refugees and stateless persons.
- Countries should strengthen or establish collaboration between NSOs and NHRIs. Countries should leverage the institutional independence and mutually reinforcing monitoring roles of these state institutions. This will help to ensure that key population groups are not further marginalized by SDG-related data collection/utilization efforts.

Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion (2019).

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org>

