



SDGs GOAL 16
PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

Advocacy Toolkit

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PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK (PJN) GOAL 16 ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Foreword

On behalf of Peace & Justice Network (PJN), a national Civil Society Network working across Pakistan including GB and AJK on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, we are privileged to present our “Advocacy Strategy” as a resource on the implementation of and accountability for Goal 16 and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Pakistan that we designed with the support of Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network global toolkit and adopted as per local requirements by taking input through extensive consultations with civil society organizations across Pakistan.

PJN believes that open, inclusive, accountable and effective governance and peaceful societies are both outcomes and enablers of sustainable and equitable development. Any effort to implement the 2030 Agenda at national level should promote openness, accountability and effective public institutions, build trust between state and their citizens, lay the foundation for peaceful and just society, and empower civil society to engage in the design, implementation and accountability of public policies, at all levels. This work is underpinned by recognition that we maximize reach and influence when many stakeholders speak with a unified voice and common vision.

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals refer to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the 193 Member United Nations General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Summit held in New York on 25-27 September, 2015. They include 17 goals and 169 targets. The Sustainable Development Goals succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which ended in December 2015. The new agenda serves as a launch pad for renewed cooperation over the next 15 years to end poverty in all its forms, promote shared prosperity, and support sustainable development for everyone.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development] is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Challenges for Developing Countries for SDGs implementation – Pakistan:

To embark on such large scale SDGs agenda, developing countries will have to rely on their own resources as not much financial support is expected from the developed world. The role of legislatures is crucial in the implementation of SDGs with respect to governance especially Goal 16 and the challenges associated with the post-2015 development agenda.

For the implementation of SDGs monitoring through new approaches for measuring, as well as monitoring financing for development by strengthening national statistical systems, and building effective institutions and accountability mechanisms is essential. Hence, for sustainable development, democratic ownership should be viewed as one of the main means of implementation in future SDG framework.

To ensure that the implementation of SDGs follows the above principles:

- Countries must take stock of existing goals and targets in overarching plans and of the planning system; and

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- Perform a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the existing governance framework for sustainable development and analyze the culture and characteristics of the administrative system with sustainable development lenses and establish a process for SDGs development.

One of the main challenge for the post-2015 development agenda will be to link international and domestic efforts, which means that the implementation of SDGs will require appropriate institutional support.

Civil society plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of countries and ensure transparency and accountability which is harbinger for inclusive society. However, Parliaments are often limited by their institutional capacity to organise consultations with civil society and implement their recommendations to further promote the implementation of SDGs, which jeopardize the inclusiveness of SDGs.

Moreover, the challenge to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) into a single policy approach is a big one. Many countries are faced with hard choices such as either to grow fast or grow cautiously without damaging the environment. These hard choices inhibit the implementation of SDGs and are often in conflict with national priorities. Therefore, for each country, democratic ownership of a new development framework (SDGs) into a single policy approach will be a huge challenge. Finance is another issue to address as many developing countries are heavily indebted and have to budget the SDGs if it doesn't reconcile objectives with the popular national agenda.

If we talk about Goal 16 specifically, the inclusion of Goal 16 was a major course correction for the global development community. Dropping governance from development planning was a major oversight. But the 'governance' catchall papers over several distinct and disparate domains of knowledge and practice: human rights, law and justice; anticorruption; transparency and the right to information; violence and conflict; public management and policy; parliaments and democracy. Practitioners tied to each domain have hardly any history of interaction – much less collaboration – on a scale Goal 16 now requires of them.

This thematic disharmony creates institutional diversity i.e. there is a wide array of institutions, that are mandated to deliver on one or more targets: national and provincial legislatures; superior and subordinate courts; provincial departments for police, prosecution, prisons; authorities for parole and probation; protection centers for women (Dar-ul-Amans) and children (Dar-ul-Itfals); local governments (district and below); regulatory authorities such as the State Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission; national and provincial anticorruption agencies such as the Ombudspersons and the National Accountability Bureau. The thematic and institutional ecosystem for Goal 16 is overcrowded and spread across the executive, legislative and judicial organs of state. The list is long and it does not yet cover non-governmental stakeholders who are critical to success against most targets.

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Needless to say, the political economy challenges tied to Goal 16 are also exceptional, especially where it seeks to control corruption, equalize access to justice, enhance representation and end discrimination. Progress in any of these areas would require realignment in the political and economic interests of powerful stakeholder groups that are deeply invested in the status quo. These competing interests become multiplied manifold when SDG implementation and monitoring needs to be decentralized and led by provincial and local governments, following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the passage of provincial local government laws and the elections of local governments across the country.

Part 1

Understanding Goal 16

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



1.1 Goal 16: Ensuring Peaceful, Inclusive and Just Societies

The *2030 Agenda* reaffirms the wealth of evidence that ‘there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development’. There was a clear acknowledgement that political goals—ensuring inclusion, entrenching good governance and ending violent conflict—must find a place alongside social, economic and environmental ones. The *2030 Agenda* responds to a critical gap identified by many stakeholders over the last fifteen years of MDG implementation, namely, the absence of an explicit recognition of the critical importance of governance and institution-building as underpinning overall development and peace-building efforts. This was achieved through Goal 16, which commits countries ‘to promote peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’. Goal 16 contains twelve targets (see next section), each of which will now be the focus of efforts to develop indicators and identify key activities to support their implementations.

Explicit institutional acceptance of the importance of good governance and peace for the achievement of sustainable development—through the adoption of Goal 16 and references



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throughout the *2030 Agenda* outcome document—was an enormous breakthrough in the *2030 Agenda*. Although governance issues were briefly touched upon in the Millennium Declaration, no specific MDG was developed to focus attention and resources on this vital area. In contrast, *peace* is specifically identified as one of the five pillars on which the *2030 Agenda* is grounded, in recognition of the critical need for governments to ensure that their citizens can live safe, secure lives. Goal 16 underpins the other sixteen SDGs, all of which rest on institutions that are capable of responding to the needs of the public transparently and accountably. A commitment to human rights, justice, accountability and transparency—all of which are recognized as prerequisites to ensuring an enabling environment in which people are able to live freely, securely and prosperously—is evident throughout the Goal 16 targets.

This table highlights some of the key issues contained within each of the Goal 16 targets. Interlinkages highlighted in the table are a nonexhaustive list and connections can be drawn between many other targets and goals across the SDGs.

TARGETS
<p>16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere: This target responds to the concern that, in far too many countries around the world, people live in fear for their lives and have varying degrees of confidence in the ability of their governments to ensure their physical security and protect their human rights. This target calls on governments to ensure that all people are afforded protection by the state, as well as for the development of cultures that do not rely on violence as a method of conflict resolution. The scope of this target recognizes many forms of deaths and violence, including homicide and conflict-related deaths, as well as physical, psychological, and sexual violence.</p> <p>SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)</p>
<p>16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children: This target calls on countries to implement effective child-protection laws and systems to ensure that children are protected from a range of harms. A wide range of specific child-abuse problems is covered by this target, including child sex trafficking, child labour, and corporal punishment by caregivers. This target is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as other global and regional treaties such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (UNTOC). It requires a joined-up approach that strengthens domestic laws, improves the policing of those laws and increases cross-jurisdiction collaboration across law-enforcement agencies to address global violations of child rights.</p> <p>SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all).</p>
<p>16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all: This target is focused on ensuring that countries have effective, fair and accessible laws and justice systems that ensure security and protection for all people, and enable meaningful avenues of redress for criminal and civil wrongdoing. Strengthening the rule of law requires both the passage of just laws that respect people’s human rights and the enforcement of those laws by justice institutions capable of effectively investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating upon alleged crimes. This target is heavily underpinned by MOI Targets 16.a and 16.b, which focus on strengthening law-and-justice institutions and addressing discrimination.</p>

[SDG Interlinkages: Goal 5 \(gender equality\), Goal 10 \(reduce inequalities\), Goal 11 \(sustainable cities & communities\), Goal 17 \(means of implementation & global partnerships\)](#)

16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime: This target reflects the priorities of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three Protocols on the Trafficking in Persons, the Smuggling of Migrants and the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. To the extent that it relates to illicit financial flows and asset recovery, it also reflects commitments in Chapter 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and commitments from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The commitment to reducing illegal arms flows is also a reflection of the Arms Trade Treaty, which regulates the flow of arms globally.

[SDG Interlinkages: Goal 1 \(poverty alleviation\), Goal 8 \(sustainable economic growth & decent work for all\), Goal 17 \(means of implementation & global partnerships\)](#)

16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms: This target finds its roots in the UNCAC, which has already been ratified by 177 States Parties to date. UNCAC calls on States Parties to address corruption and bribery through a range of prevention and enforcement activities. This target requires national-level efforts to address both petty and mega corruption at all levels and across all institutions, as well as cross-jurisdictional efforts to stamp out cross-border corruption in extractive industries and the like. This target overlaps with Target 16.4 in relation to stamping out illicit financial flows and facilitating asset recovery related to corruption cases.

[SDG Interlinkages: Goal 5 \(gender equality\), Goal 8 \(sustainable economic growth & decent work for all\)](#)

16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels: This target underpins the entire 2030 Agenda in terms of supporting the general strengthening of institutions to ensure that they can effectively discharge their mandates in service of the public. It complements and strengthens Targets 16.7 and 16.8, as well as MOI Target 16.a, and vice versa. With a strong recognition of the crosscutting nature of Goal 16, this target has high transformative potential, as addressing these issues will help ensure that governments are honouring their commitments to the entire 2030 Agenda by delivering basic goods and services and fostering good governance. Consequently, ensuring that data and indicators for measuring effective, accountable and transparent institutions reflect people’s actual perceptions and experiences will be critical to achieving this target.

[SDG Interlinkages: All other SDGs](#)

16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels: This target is all-encompassing and underpins the entire 2030 Agenda by requiring governments to be more inclusive of people in all aspects of their decision-making processes. Consequently, it embodies the ‘people-centred’ nature of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the agenda’s commitment that ‘no one will be left behind’. Similar to 16.6, indicators and data to measure progress towards this target will need to reflect people’s perceptions and experiences with governments and decision-makers, and priorities for action should include improving government consultation processes (e.g. when drafting laws, developing policies or implementing programmes), improving parliamentary engagement (e.g. through opening up parliamentary committees, releasing more parliamentary information or encouraging more outreach by legislators) and implementing specific strategies for highly marginalized groups (e.g. quotas for women, youth or other vulnerable groups including those discriminated based on caste).

[SDG Interlinkages: All other SDGs.](#)

16.8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance: This target requires global institutions to work with Member States and civil society to develop effective mechanisms to enable local voices and perspectives to be fed into their work. It also opens the door for Member States and civil society to promote the greater inclusion of representatives

of developing countries in the boards of institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 1 (poverty alleviation), Goal 2 (zero hunger & food security), Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 13 (combat climate change), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration: This target recognizes that issues around official identity are often at the heart of both a person’s actual and potential capacity to engage with governments and a government’s ability to effectively plan and budget for basic services. Globally, 2.4 billion people are without legal identification documents. Without a birth certificate, it is almost impossible for a person to effectively engage with formal government services and processes, as a lack of identity papers can inhibit access to education, employment and welfare, as well as make it difficult to uphold the protection of children under eighteen. Refugees, nomads and many long-term illegal-immigrant populations suffer from a lack of access to identity papers. Underpinning this target is the need for effective civil registration and vital statistics systems that effectively provide legal identity in addition to birth, marriage, and death registrations.

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements: This target reflects the fact that freedom of information (FOI) is the touchstone of all other human rights and underpins the achievement of all of the SDGs. Access to information is crucial to ensuring transparency, which is both an end in itself and a means of empowering the public to more effectively engage in their own development. Already, more than one hundred countries have some form of FOI legislation in place, though implementation varies. UNCAC specifically calls on Member States to prioritize access to information in Article 10.

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 9 (sustainable infrastructure & innovation), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

Goal 16 Means of Implementation (MOI) Targets

MOI Targets have been included for every SDG. They draw specific attention to the enabling actions that underpin achievement of the core SDG Targets and should be read in conjunction with SDG-17, which explicitly aims to ‘strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development’.

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime: This MOI target complements Target 16.6 on institution-building and crosscuts Target 16.1, which specifically seeks to address violent crime, and Target 16.4, which focuses on tackling organized crime, amongst others. Without effective institutions that are capable of ensuring secure, lawful interactions between people and their governments, the Goal 16 agenda of inclusive and peaceful governance cannot be achieved.

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development: This MOI target reflects that the entire Goal 16 agenda is underpinned by a human rights–based approach that requires nondiscrimination in all aspects of implementation. This approach is also a practical strategy for promoting inclusiveness and participation. Official and unofficial discrimination can severely inhibit the capacity for individuals to participate in the world around them, as their exclusion from

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public jobs and services, and/or the even more pernicious threat of active persecution by government, can be terribly restrictive of their rights and opportunities for development. Discrimination in all its forms must be addressed if inclusive and peaceful governance is to be attained.

SDG Interlink ages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

1. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/IRG.html>

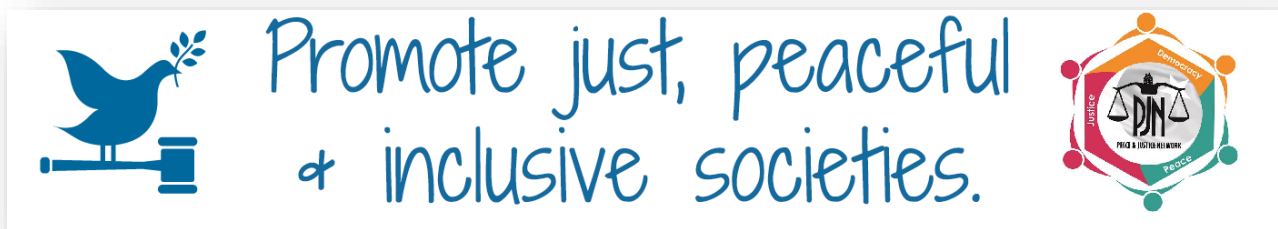
2. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/open-ended-intergovernmental-meeting-to-explore-all-options-regarding-an-appropriate-and-effective-review-mechanism.html>

Part 2

Preparing to Engage with Goal 16 at the National Level

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.... We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



2.1 Analysing the Landscape: Gap Analysis

To prepare to engage on Goal 16 implementation and accountability processes effectively, PJN will start with an initial process of analysis and planning in order to identify the most strategic entry points for its engagement. Goal 16 is such a broad agenda that there are numerous opportunities to be involved.

Whilst an initial Goal 16 gap analysis will be important for PJN, it can also be a useful resource for the government. Government departments will undoubtedly be stretched to capacity in trying to implement all seventeen SDGs and any help with gathering data; undertaking analysis of existing policies, laws and practices; and proposing recommended responses can be of enormous help. In fact, constructive and positive engagement with government actors will help in building trust and a much-needed rapport with these colleagues, allowing us to maximize impact when opportunities present themselves.



Part 3

How will the PJN Goal 16 Strategy be implemented?

By incorporating the PJN Goal 16 Strategy into the Government’s Development Plan and agreeing detailed action plans with relevant line ministries and justice sector institutions as well as Civil Society Organizations; the National Strategy will be implemented as an approach incorporated into the Governments existing body of policies. Additionally, implementation of the PJN Goal 16 Strategy will be in line with Pakistan’s commitments to international human rights conventions.

Through integrating an access to justice perspective into existing policies and programmes within the National Development Plans, the Government commits to support the recommended initiatives with budget resources. Complementing this initiative, PJN will work with Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) to establish a close coordination to promote better coordination and harmonisation across the legal and justice sector at both national and local levels in the implementation of the PJN Goal16 Strategy. The Secretariat will also assist the coordination and harmonisation of support from donors in support of the implementation of the Goal16 Strategy.



3.1 Contents of the Goal 16 Individual Sectors Strategy

<i>To create a framework for policies and regulations that are inclusive of poor and marginalised people and afford everyone access to justice through transparent and inclusive institutions.</i>	
Sector	Key Policy Recommendations
Legal and Judicial Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the rule of law in the Pakistani context, grounded in the Constitution. • Develop legal education with social justice perspectives to foster greater integrity and pro-poor sensitivity in the legal profession, and encourage educational institutions to become more active in community education and monitoring of justice institutions. • Increase transparency, community participation and monitoring in law-making and implementation, and improve harmonisation of laws. • Strengthen the reform agenda for justice institutions, including supervisory commissions, to improve professionalism and ethics in the police, public prosecutors and courts.

<p>Legal Aid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a comprehensive legal aid system: (i) legislation guaranteeing legal aid and legal services for the poor; (ii) institutional capacity and legal resources development; (iii) funding to promote access to legal aid; (iv) paralegal initiatives as part of community empowerment efforts; (v) legal education that supports the implementation of legal aid; and (vi) incentives to motivate and attract the involvement of a new generation of legal aid activists. • Guarantee the constitutional right of poor people to defend and fight for their legal rights without discrimination. • Make legal services affordable and equally available for all.
<p>Local Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase efficiency and professionalism within the bureaucracy. • Harmonise and improve the quality of local policies based on transparency, participation and accountability. • Develop policies to promote optimal use of national and local budgets. • Improve decision-making about the proliferation of political districts.
<p>Minorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an integrated and comprehensive legal and policy framework based on social and environmental justice, and widen space for participation of religious and sexual and PWD minorities in law-making. • Recognise and protect rights, and harmonise spatial planning and permitting, to ensure minorities can safeguard their rights • If available strengthen alternate dispute resolution mechanisms that can protect the rights of poor and disadvantaged groups, and transform conflicts into schemes of partnership among stakeholders. • Help improve the quality of public services and complaint mechanisms. • Restore the physical and social environment upon which people’s livelihoods depend.
<p>Women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review local regulations that are biased against women. • Include women’s needs and experiences in law-making and budgeting processes. • Increase support for coordination among justice institutions, relevant government agencies and civil society organisations in handling cases of violence against women. • Increase the awareness of justice officials on issues of access to justice for women. • Make legal education curricula gender-responsive.
<p>Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate and improve rules and programmes on children’s rights protection. • Shift the justice paradigm towards a principle of restorative justice in order to prioritise the best interests of the child.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift from a focus on strengthening legislation to improving monitoring and evaluation. • Strengthen judicial capacity and child welfare systems to ensure the protection of children’s rights.
Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend laws and regulations to increase protection of child labourers and bonded labourers. • Improve the quality of protective and complaint handling mechanisms for workers. • Accelerate the process of obtaining remedies for victims of labour abuse and violence. • Develop a strategy to raise legal awareness among workers.
Poor and Disadvantaged Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the paradigm of legal education from legal formalism to social justice, noting the challenges and experiences of disadvantaged people in obtaining justice. • Strengthen efforts to develop and promote paralegalism across Pakistan. • Integrate government and nongovernmental initiatives to strengthen access to justice in the provision of government services such as health, education, roads and clean water, as well as in economic and community empowerment programmes, e.g. PPAF (Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund).

3.2 Contents of the Goal16 Cross-Cutting Strategy

People’s ability to access better justice systems should be strengthened alongside efforts to improve the quality and performance of government institutions in order that they become more responsive and transparent.

Cross-Cutting Strategy	Objectives
Change the paradigm of legal development and legal education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and describe rule of law in the Pakistani context, grounded in the Constitution to provide direction and vision for national legal development. • Strengthen the socio-legal perspective in law school curricula. • Develop community-based critical legal awareness.
State support for legal aid and paralegalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a solid legal foundation for pro-poor legal aid by advocacy of a constitutional right to legal aid and passage of a special law on legal aid. • Promote social responsibility of private legal practitioners (pro bono publico). • Promote paralegalism in Pakistan (establish institutional focal points, training curricula, and a code of ethics).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policy to oblige governors to make allocations in provincial budgets for legal aid for the poor. • Promote a legal aid endowment fund
Improve the politics of legislation and budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support revision of Laws with enabling provisions on public participation in law-making, legal harmonisation and regulatory impact assessment, and develop related guidelines for implementation. • Strengthen the role of the Constitutional Court in performing constitutional review as constitutional guardian. • Budget allocation in regional/local state budgets for legal empowerment of the marginalised, including legal aid for the poor.
Develop and implement standards for public service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop minimum standards of government service for the public to monitor government performance in delivery of public services, and support their promulgation into the Law on Public Services. • Review all public service-related legislation to develop proposed amendments. • Support the promulgation of “proper administration”, which will encompass due care, transparency and accountability in the decision-making process, proper consideration of all relevant facts and interests before taking a decision, and reasoned decision-making.
Develop public complaints mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the role of the Ombudsman in processing public complaints concerning government administration. • Promote and coordinate with federal and provincial Ombudsmen.
Strengthen community-based justice systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote informal justice systems, in particular alternate dispute resolution mechanisms that are based on human rights principles.

3.3 Youth as ‘Critical Agents of Change’

PJN with its special emphasis on SDGs Goal 16 believes this should be monitored in a way that both captures the experiences and views of youth and includes young people in processes that hold government institutions to account for their national and global commitments. PJN has identified a list of indicators and methods for monitoring Goal 16 and Goal 5 of the SDGs. These targets were chosen for their focus on core aspects of rights and governance – effective, accountable and transparent institutions; responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making; access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms – which if

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achieved, will enable progress across the sustainable development agenda. Our recommendations contribute to a basket of Goal 16 indicators and encourage the use of multiple and diverse data sources, including civil society and citizens to monitor progress. The recommendations seek to ensure that national-level monitoring is youth-sensitive, by taking into account the role, position and experiences of young people.

The 2030 Agenda recognises children and youth as ‘critical agents of change’ in the SDGs platform and for the ‘creation of a new world’. This recognition must translate into actions that government and other stakeholders take to implement and monitor the SDGs, including in the selection of national-level indicators and the involvement of young people in implementing agenda and monitoring progress. When made a reality, these commitments to listen to and act on young people’s views, including those most likely to experience discrimination and exclusion, will fulfil young people’s rights and ensure that government develop strategies and plans that build on and learn from young people’s experiences, innovation, and expertise. Young people are entitled to hold the state institutions and its decision-makers accountable for their duties and performance. We cannot let this opportunity slip by.

Young people are already involved in monitoring the realisation of their rights in many countries, and many have demonstrated their willingness and capacity to contribute to good governance in examples throughout the world. At the 2015 Global Youth Summit, young people declared that they ‘should be included as full partners in the post-2015 process and preserve the world we want for the youth of tomorrow’. It is time to build on these calls to action to ensure that we have robust strategies for measuring the 2030 Agenda. Ultimately, the achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires the inclusion and participation of all members of our society to monitor and implement sustainable development. Young people’s insights, energy and innovations are indispensable to the achievement of this collective vision.

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Helpful Links

- *UN Convention against Corruption*: [https:// www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/)
- *UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto*: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>
- *UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice UNODC Compendium*: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-pris-on-reform/index.html?ref=menuaside>
- *Article 19 (2006). Freedom of Information Model Law*: <https://www.article19.org/resources.php/resource/1796/en/model-free-dom-of-information-law>
- *GAAV (2015). Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and Reducing Armed Violence*: <http://www.allianceonarmedviolence.org/uploads/default/files/fccdbcccba8055231a0cf697ce329278.pdf> - for Goal 16 and Goal 5 linkages
- *World Bank & Center for Global Development (2015). 'The Role of Identification in the Post-2015 Development Agenda'*: <http://pub-docs.worldbank.org/pubdocs/publicdoc/2015/7/149911436913670164/World-Bank-Working-Paper-Center-for-Global-Development-Dahan-Gelb-July2015.pdf>
- *FWRM & RRRT (2010) Changing Laws: A Legislative Lobbying Toolkit*: [http://www.fwrn.org.fj/images/fwrn/publications/general/ Changing%20Laws%20-%20Lobbying%20 Toolkit.pdf](http://www.fwrn.org.fj/images/fwrn/publications/general/Changing%20Laws%20-%20Lobbying%20 Toolkit.pdf)
- *UNDP (2004), The Blue Book: A Hands On Approach to Advocating for the Millennium Development Goals*: www.undg.org/archive_docs/6813-Blue_Book_a_hands-on_approach_to_advocating_for_the_MDGs.pdf
- *UNICEF (2010), Advocacy Toolkit: A Guide to Influencing Decisions that Improve Children's Lives*: www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy_Toolkit.pdf
- *Water Aid (2007), The Advocacy Sourcebook*: www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/advocacy-sourcebook.ashx



SDG 16 Knowledge Hub

Initiative by Peace & Justice Network

E-mail: info@pjn.org.pk

Facebook: [/PeaceAndJusticeNetworkPakistan](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceAndJusticeNetworkPakistan)

Website: www.pjn.org.pk

"A peaceful society governed by laws where the rights of individuals are secured"