

Global Technical Workshop: Ways Forward on Monitoring SDG 16+

Hosted by: The Global Alliance Reporting on Progress on Peace, Justice and Inclusion & the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)

Background

Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Inclusive Institutions (SDG 16) breaks new ground in approaches to sustainable and inclusive development. On one hand, it has the potential to support the realisation of human rights, highlighting that sustainable development cannot be achieved without civil and political rights. At the same time, unlike many other thematic areas of the 2030 Agenda, governance has become a new domain in official statistics, throwing up new challenges for monitoring and data collection.

Coming to the end of the first cycle of SDG implementation, only a few countries and statistical offices have experience in producing governance data or in establishing the type of inclusive systems needed to monitor and report on governance, peace and security indicators. With a significant proportion of targets and indicators under SDG 16 being a direct reflection of international human rights standards, there is also a vast missed opportunity to use data and information produced for other relevant reporting processes, including for human rights mechanisms, to report on issues related to Peace, Justice and Inclusion (SDG16+).

Nonetheless, there is an increasing commitment among Member States to reporting on the 2030 Agenda via Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). The number of VNR submissions has increased every year and in 2019 this number more than doubled (47 VNRs) in comparison to what was observed in 2016 (22 VNRs). While the 2019 VNRs generally provided more data analysis and included a more comprehensive list of data sources than the ones in previous years, a lack of data – especially pertaining to SDG 16+ - remained a challenge for Member States¹. In addition, it has been observed that strategic approaches covering SDG 16 and its interlinkages with other goals have been particularly rare in the VNRs.

¹ Global Alliance White & Case 'Review of 2019 Voluntary National Reports on SDG 16+'

In addition, during the SDG 16 Conference held in May 2019 and in the review of SDG 16 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019, it was highlighted that there is a need to cooperate, coordinate and innovate to address critical data gaps, strengthen monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+ to accelerate impact of these targets².

There is an evident need to identify, highlight and share specific progress on monitoring, stakeholder engagement and partnerships, as well as details on challenges, shortfalls, needs and plans of action on SDG 16 and related targets³. The good news is that there is progress to be shared.

In recent years, several initiatives have emerged to support Member States in their SDG 16+ monitoring and reporting efforts. Some initiatives support countries in including SDG 16 in their VNR reports, while others help them focus on monitoring SDG 16 at the national level (whether the country presents a VNR report or not). In parallel, given the significant linkages between the content of SDG 16 and human rights standards, there are also ongoing efforts to support Member States to develop National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) on their related human rights obligations which are of direct relevance to SDG 16 as well as the entire 2030 Agenda.

This workshop will bring together a multi-stakeholder group of experts from all regions to address critical challenges pertaining to the monitoring of SDG 16+. In the course of this meeting, participants will exchange experiences, success stories, obstacles and opportunities to address gaps in the production and usage of data to monitor SDG16+ and will explore opportunities for collaboration moving forward.

Objectives

The Global Alliance and DIHR will convene active stakeholders working to support SDG 16+ monitoring in order to:

- Share **examples** of SDG 16+ monitoring initiatives
- Discuss **overall lessons** learned, successes and challenges with SDG 16+ monitoring initiatives
- Discuss experiences and share guidance for national partners to develop national SDG 16+ **indicators**, as well as map and collect required **data**

² Conference in preparation for HLPF 2019–SDG 16 Conference, UNDESA, IDLO, Rome, Italy.
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23814SDG_16_MAIN_SUMMARY_SDG_Conference_Rome_May2019.pdf, Global Alliance (2019), [Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion](#)

³ Partners for Review Voluntary National Reviews submitted to the 2019 High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development – a Comparative Analysis 2019

- Explore how information produced by and for the **human rights systems, a human rights-based approach**, and existing National Mechanisms for Follow-up and Reporting of human rights (NMRFs) can be used to monitor SDG 16+
- Exchange experiences on **data disaggregation** methodologies, including to uphold international human rights standards on non-discrimination and ensure no one is left behind.
- Discuss tested approaches to encourage and support inclusive/pluralist **multi-stakeholder processes** to monitor SDG 16+
- Discuss how the ethical use of new **technologies and innovations** can strengthen the openness, transparency and accountability in monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+
- Share features of successful examples **to institutionalize the monitoring** of SDG 16+ at country level, e.g. through public report cards
- Identify initiatives that support **follow-up to VNRs**, e.g. by feeding results and commitments into national planning, monitoring and reporting

Outcomes

- Compile an **inventory** of SDG 16+ monitoring initiatives with contacts to facilitate ongoing collaboration, coordination and exchange to ensure continued learning (e.g. Community of Practice or network)
- Identify **gaps and areas for collaboration** among participants on SDG 16+ national monitoring initiatives
- Enhance common understanding and collect practices on how **monitoring mechanisms for SDG 16 and for human rights** can be aligned in practice

Format

The workshop will take place on 5-7 February 2020 and will be hosted by DIHR and the Global Alliance. With a focus on action to monitor SDG 16+ and the LNOB commitment, the workshop will provide a dedicated space for stakeholders to present their current monitoring projects, challenges and good practices, and will build on potential synergies for collaboration. The meeting will combine plenary discussions with working group methodologies, and the agenda will be developed based on participants' experiences and needs.

Participants

Due to the technical nature of the workshop, this event is by invitation only. It will gather approximately 50 representatives from SDG 16+ and Human Rights initiatives, civil society organizations, rights-holder groups, UN Agencies, and other international entities working on monitoring/reporting methodologies related to SDG 16+.