



PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 11

Welcome to the new and updated SDG 16 info digest – edition 11!

Happy New Year!

With this eleventh edition of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 Info Digest we herald another important year progressing on the 2030 Agenda. As in the past, more SDG16 related information, country stories and best practice, tools and resources are included in this digest.

The Info digest provides updates on SDG 16 related events and activities, within the UN System and outside. It also has information about resources like publications, articles, blogs, tools, platforms and upcoming events. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information and resources that we can feature in future editions of this digest with [Aseem Andrews](#).



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RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS – Updates from UN / UNDP:

Global and regional events:

Workshop on Data and Statistics for Evidence-based VNRs



Organised by UNDESA (Stats Division), Vienna, 9- 12 December 2019: Delegations from 16 member states which will present a VNR in 2020 participated with national stats experts and VNR focal points. UNDP co-facilitated (with UNODC) the session on the 'Governance Dimension' / SDG 16 indicators. During the engaged discussion, delegations stressed, inter alia, the relevance of SDG 16 in their countries and VNRs as well as the need to coordinate data collection efforts by multiple stakeholders with the National Stats Office.

Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16



on challenges, opportunities and emerging trends of governance and SDG 16 in the region with examples on efforts for developing relevant, measurable and operational indicators' frameworks under the chapeau of SDG 16+.

Co-organized by UNDP and ESCWA in Amman 12-13 December. The EGM generated participation from Ministries and NSOs from the Arab States region with contributions from experts on measures for enhancing institutional effectiveness, advancing inclusiveness, ending violence and strengthening anti-corruption measures in the context of shaping a regional monitoring framework for measuring progress on SDG 16. The two-day meeting entailed focused discussions

Friends of Governance for Sustainable Development workshop



2030 Agenda. On SDG 16, it was highlighted how institutional mechanisms at the national and local levels to gather data, policy efforts and implementation of SDG 16+ should be further strengthened. As representative of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and UNDP presented key findings from the "[Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Through SDG 16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion](#)" with a focus on measurement and reporting on SDG 16. The existing data gap on SDG 16 was highlighted and initiatives to support quality data collection and reporting were presented, including the SDG Survey Module Initiative (UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR), the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics, and the SDG 16 Monitoring Initiative. The trends on increased reporting on SDG 16 in VNRs were mentioned and the opportunity to strengthen VNR and post-VNR processes highlighted.

On December 9th, UN-DESA Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development co-hosted a workshop with Friends of Governance. Moderators and speakers included representatives from Colombia, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, and Romania.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the upcoming HLPF Review, as well as the current and future implementation of SDG16 as an enabling goal of the

2019 16+ Forum Timor-Leste Annual Showcase



The Annual SDG 16 Showcase kicked off in Dili, Timor Leste on November 11 with 280 representatives from 48 countries. Organized by WFUNA through the [SDG16+ Forum](#), this year's showcase worked under the title of "Implementing SDG 16+ at National, Regional and Local Levels". Participants included a diverse group of SDG16+ practitioners, policy-makers and civil society organizations with the aim to learn, exchange and share SDG 16+ best practices, across stakeholders and contexts.

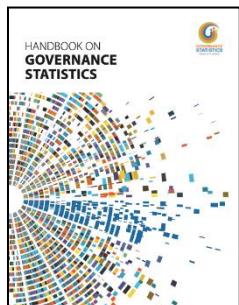
The showcase consisted of four packed days of various panels, workshops, break-out and networking sessions. The dual nature of the showcase was highlighted as participants were exposed to global level actions, as well as local actions with Timor Leste being actively engaged as the hosting nation. The Showcase remains a great opportunity for the SDG16+ community to come together and discuss action on SDG 16. An outcome document will be ready in January 2020.

SDG 16 projects and initiatives:

SDG 16 survey initiative to address official data gaps

UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR have embarked on an initiative aimed at strengthening national efforts to collect and manage SDG 16 data. The SDG 16 Survey Initiative offers ready-made survey modules for National Statistical Systems to produce data for 10 SDG 16 indicators of which very few countries have data. Population surveys present numerous advantages – including high data quality and the possibility to produce indicators disaggregated by demographic and other variables. The modules can be included by NSOs in on-going household surveys for regular reporting on SDG 16 indicators and will enable the collection of nationally representative and internationally comparable statistics. The SDG 16 modular questionnaire is currently being piloted in a diversity of country contexts and will be ready for global roll-out by June 2020. Contact sdg16indicators@undp.org for more information.

Praia Handbook on Governance statistics soon to be launched



A Handbook on Governance Statistics is soon to be launched by the [Praia Group on Governance Statistics](#) and will be presented to the 51st session of the [UN Statistical Commission](#) in March 2020 for its endorsement. The Handbook is a collaborative effort of national statistical offices, international organizations and civil society organizations and provides a foundation for the development of international statistical guidance and standards in all areas of governance statistics. It takes stock of existing practices in governance data collection and proposes guidelines for the improved production and compilation of governance, peace, security, human rights and rule of law indicators. It is intended as a guide for those wishing to understand, produce and analyze governance indicators and statistics including for monitoring SDG 16 progress, and is primarily targeted towards national statistical agencies.

Update on global indicator framework – additional indicator on access to justice

Members of the [Inter-Agency and Expert Group \(IAEG\)](#) responsible for the SDG indicators, recognized the role access to civil justice plays in delivering sustainable development when it endorsed a proposal put forward by UNODC, OECD and UNDP for an additional global indicator under target 16.3 on rule of law and access to justice: "Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism." The indicator complements the two criminal justice measures [victimization reporting rates](#) and [rates of pre-trial detention](#) and captures the many ways access to civil justice interacts with sustainable development. The indicator will be considered by the 51st session of the [UN Statistical Commission](#) as part of the Comprehensive Review of the Global Indicator Framework that takes place in March 2020.

RESOURCES – publications, tools, blogs:

➤ Tools / Platform/ Resources:

SDG16 Hub



**SDG 16
Hub**

The SDG 16 Hub has a new global team! Since its launch in July 2018 there has been an increase in activity on the community side of the Hub that facilitates collaboration on this important global goal. The curated content-side of the Hub is also growing, with an ongoing large resource upload, ensuring the Hub is updated with the most important and relevant resources. The [SDG 16 Hub Community](#) has increasingly grown thanks to the participation of a vast number of users who actively engage by sharing

content, comments, posts and events on the community stream and on the designated groups' pages. To stay up-to-date on SDG 16 activities and news on the road to HLPF 2019, join The Hub community [here](#).

To ensure the best and most accessible experience to all its users, the SDG 16 Hub now also offers the possibility to share [Feedback](#) and to take part to an anonymous [survey](#) that will help improve the community.

White & Case 2019 VNR Analysis Report

[White&Case](#) has released its fourth [Voluntary National Review Analysis](#), since starting in 2016. The analysis, commissioned by [the Global Alliance for reporting on SDG16+](#), examines the VNRs submitted by Member States to assess reporting on SDG 16+, the inclusivity of the VNR process and data coverage. Key findings from the 2019 report show that an increasing number of countries report on SDG 16 in their VNRs, and all self-report that the VNR process was inclusive. 46 out of the 47 countries that reported, noted collaboration with private sector, while almost all provided some sources of data in their VNRs. There has further been an increase in reporting on policies for greater equality (10.4), reducing violence (16.1), ending child abuse (16.2) and reducing corruption (16.5). While the lowest areas of reporting included: regulation of global financial markets and institutions (10.5), safe public spaces (11.7) and participation of developing countries in global governance (16.8).

The White & Case report can be used to note the SDG16+ targets that lag behind to support adjustments and programming on the country level. The report will further be used as departure for discussions on strengthening VNR processes and SDG16 at a High-Level Breakfast meeting in New York the 29th of January, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN and the Global Alliance. For more information, contact Ingrid.erno@undp.org.

Voluntary National Reviews submitted to the 2019 High-level Political Forum – A Comparative Analysis

This comparative analysis of the Voluntary National Reports presented at the HLPF in 2019 identifies similarities and differences in the reviews of the UN member states. It explores good practices, lessons learned, and challenges faced by countries in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda.

National SDG Review: data challenges opportunities (P4R-PARIS21)

This paper was prepared jointly by PARIS21 and Partners for Review and focuses on the data ecosystem needed for effective follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. It analyses examples of national statistical offices, identifies capacity needs and presents a roadmap to guide a capacity development process.

Human Development Report, 2019



The 2019 HDR explores new dimensions of inequality brought forth by phenomena ranging from technology to climate change. The report encourages looking beyond income to how inequalities originate at early stages of people's lives and are exacerbated by disparities in access to health, education, productive employment, and political participation. It emphasizes the multiple factors that contribute to inequalities today, the entrenched cultural norms that damage societal relations and further these disparities. Importantly, the report lays the groundwork for adapting policy approaches to tackle inequality and promote a human development approach that brings people together rather than further apart.

'Initial assessment and conditions for success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' from The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations's (IDDRI)

This Study examines ownership and use of the 2030 Agenda by different actors. Has it changed the practices of national governments, major international organisations, specific communities such as the Ocean community, companies or NGOs? Are their implementation approaches relevant? What have the SDGs brought to policy debates and policy-making at the international and country levels? And what are the potential tools to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

➤ **Op Eds., Blogs and articles:**

SDG 16: How to invest in peace by Sarah Rundell

This is a strong case for investment in SDG16 as the fundamental bedrock for achieving the other goals. It builds on the premise that while investment in the 17 SDGs is growing, but SDG 16, and its call to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, gets the least investor attention. Yet the idea that investors can mobilise their capital to nurture peace is wholly possible....

How relevant is governance to financing for development and partnerships? Interlinking SDG16 and SDG17 at the target level by Peride K. Blind¹

This paper aims to assess the SDG16-SDG17 connections at the target level to enable policy-makers to interlink the two Goals more effectively in their implementation efforts. The first section scans the academic journals of development and public administration published in the last year to account for the quantity and quality of SDG16-SDG17 linkages they include. It does this based on a comprehensive but by no means exhaustive list of key words defining each Goal. The second section teases out the main SDG16-SDG17 linkages at the target level based on a textual analysis of the AAAA's Action areas (AAs) and Cross-cutting issues (CRI). The third section sifts the previously detected linkages through a public administration lens. The paper concludes with possible pathways that public administration can provide policy-makers with in their exploiting of SDG16-SDG17 synergies towards an effective implementation of both the AAAA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Time to get political on SDG16

This blog is by Wouter Dol, Head of Knowledge and Strategic Relations at Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIDM). In the four years since the adoption of the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals, there have been many initiatives and debates around the implementation of SDG16. This includes the acknowledgement of the catalytic nature of Goal 16, captured in the SDG16+ tag – the idea that the rest of the SDGs are only achievable if we have met the aims of goal 16. For example, environmental justice (SDG13), gender equality (SDG5), and the other crucial goals within the SDGs will remain out of reach unless we secure the objectives of SDG16 – namely peace, justice, and strong institutions – in order to facilitate them. Nevertheless, progress around the different sustainability targets within the 2030 Agenda, and specifically Goal 16, has been limited. This is partly due to the perhaps intangible aspects of peace, the rule of law, and inclusive institutions. At the same time policymakers and activists alike recognize that these intangible aspects are essential for enacting the whole agenda.

Linking peace, justice and development through good governance in SDG16

Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the central role of effective, accountable and transparent institutions in contributing to peace, justice and violence prevention in the sustainable development context. National security sectors that are both effective and accountable within a framework of democratic control, rule of law and respect for human rights are a core element of realizing the good governance ambitions of SDG16 and its related targets (Agenda 16+). Under SDG16, states are responsible for providing safety and justice for their populations. Central to that are the principles of good governance, meaning that states will need to ensure public and national security are provided in an effective, accountable and transparent way. These good governance targets are the focus in SDG 16.6. Additionally, SDG 16a calls to promote and protect human rights by receiving, investigating and rectifying grievances, while strengthening the good governance of peace and justice institutions.

¹ UN/DESA Working Papers are preliminary documents circulated in a limited number of copies and posted on the DESA website at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/working-paper> to stimulate discussion and critical comment. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat. The designations and terminology employed may not conform to United Nations practice and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Organization.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

High-Level Breakfast Meeting on Voluntary National Reviews and SDG16, 29th of January, New York

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN and the Global Alliance for Reporting on Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies are hosting a high-level breakfast meeting on Voluntary National Reviews and SDG 16 to discuss and share experiences on best practices on SDG16 VNR reporting ahead of HLPF 2020. The meeting will depart from two evidence-based analyses on VNRs and SDG16: 1) the White & Case Review of the 2019 VNRs on SDG16; and 2) the TAP Network/GIZ comparison of SDG16 VNRs with civil society shadow reports. Main findings will be presented in addition to hearing the perspectives of two Member States on their respective VNR reporting experiences.

SDG16 Monitoring Workshop, 5-7th of February, Copenhagen, Denmark

In recent years several initiatives have emerged to support Member States in their SDG 16+ monitoring and reporting efforts. Co-organized by the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peace, Justice and Inclusive Institutions and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, this workshop will bring together a multi-stakeholder group of experts from all regions to address critical challenges pertaining 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. An outcome report will be produced from the meeting.

Global Festival of Action, 1-3 April, Bonn, Germany

The SDG Global Festival of Action is an annual event, designed by and for the SDG Action community and powered by the UN SDG Action Campaign with the support of the German BMZ, the German Federal Foreign Office and other partners with the overall aim of inspiring action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2020 and fourth edition of the SDG Global Festival of Action aims to raise visibility and impact of global initiatives, with great focus on local and innovative actions and solutions that can lead to transformative change toward the SDGs.

This Info Digest is produced by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. It provides an overview of the work being done by the UN and specifically UNDP on SDG 16, apart from some interesting external inputs and includes updates on ongoing and new initiatives, resources and related announcements. The content appearing in this Info Digest does not necessarily reflect the views of the UN, UNDP or its Member States. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please write to: [Aseem Andrews](#).