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A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in Voluntary National Reviews

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Global Alliance

Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies



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Executive Summary

This guide has been developed by the [Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#). The document provides a step-by-step guide for Member States on how to put Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies into action through an inclusive and participatory Voluntary National Review (VNR) process that is firmly connected to national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The suggestions included in this Guide on how and where to report on SDG 16 in a VNR are drawn from Member State experiences and international recommendations. They are meant to be used as a starting point for Member States in determining their own scope and approach for developing the SDG 16-related content of their VNR.

The Guide reflects the catalytic role that SDG 16 plays in the 2030 Agenda and underscores the need to ensure that SDG 16 is integrated throughout the VNR. The importance of leaving no one behind in the VNR process as well as in SDG monitoring, reporting, and implementation is highlighted and recommendations are made to encourage these efforts. From defining priorities—through to report drafting, presenting at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and beyond—the added value of including different stakeholders in the VNR process is articulated along with strategies for engagement. The Guide outlines various elements to consider in an SDG 16 review and relevant tools for data collection and analysis are provided. Suggestions on how to draft and structure the SDG 16 narrative in the VNR are included as well as a matrix of different Member State examples.

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peace, Justice, and Inclusion welcomes feedback and experiences from Member States and other stakeholders involved in the VNR process to improve this guide and maintain its utility over the years to come.

Acknowledgements

“A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review” was developed by the Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. The Global Alliance is a coordinating platform of UN Member States, private sector, civil society, and UN agencies to advocate for and strengthen evidence-based reporting, monitoring and measurement of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The co-facilitation consists of 7 UN agencies: UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO and the UN Global Compact.

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Part I: Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by UN Member States in 2015, set out 17 universal and indivisible sustainable development goals (SDGs) for people, prosperity, and the planet. National leadership on the SDGs is emphasized throughout the 2030 Agenda and is echoed in the mechanism for follow-up and review, known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Previously, development progress was largely only reviewed in UN global reports. VNRs are a Member State-led process to systematically review national progress on the SDGs.

Member States also have the opportunity to share their experiences with each other by presenting the VNR to the international community at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and publishing their report online in the [HLPF VNR Database](#).

VNRs are not an end in themselves, but rather an assessment and stocktaking exercise to assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs help to strengthen accountability on the commitments Member States have made, take stock of progress made thus far and provide an important platform for partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement on the 2030 Agenda. VNRs are most effective when they are undertaken as part of national planning processes—as a means to review strategies for sustainable development, identify priorities, and track and make additional commitments.

To support Member States in preparing a VNR, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) developed a [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Review](#) outlining practical steps in the process and the UN Secretary General released the [Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines](#) providing a recommended structure for all VNRs. There are a number of other resources available to support Member States in different aspects of the VNR (some of which are referenced in this document). While the SG's guidelines recommend that countries report on all SDGs, this guide is meant to serve as a complementary resource for Member States that are reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in their VNR.

SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Institutions breaks new ground in development thinking. For the first time Peace, Justice, and Inclusion issues are being

addressed in an explicit global development goal with detailed targets. It is also recognized that SDG 16 is both an outcome and an enabler of sustainable development as SDG 16 is closely interlinked with other SDGs. Without peace, justice, and inclusion, ending poverty, ensuring education, and promoting economic growth can be difficult or impossible ([Thematic Review of SDG 16 at the High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\) in 2019](#)).

70.8 million

people are **forcibly displaced** as a result of persecution, conflict and violence.

80%

of the **extreme poor** are expected to live in countries affected by **violence and conflict** by 2030.

While over 85 percent of Member States that submitted VNRs in 2019 reported on at least one SDG 16 indicator, comprehensive reporting on SDG 16 still lags behind other goals ([White & Case VNR Analysis](#)). SDG 16 requires innovative approaches and the use of previously untapped data to monitor. A key part of this challenge is that governance statistics and data sources are limited. However, it is also argued that participatory approaches to reporting, including the integration of findings from Spotlight Reports, may contribute to closing those data gaps and yield more holistic reports altogether. The inclusion of stakeholders is in itself a contribution to achieve SDG 16 ([GIZ TAP VNRs and Spotlight Analysis](#)). SDG 16 examines the nexus of politics and institutions as well as power dynamics that may help or hinder progress for all. This can be sensitive or difficult for Member States to report on in some contexts. However, reviewing these aspects of development is essential for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind.

In response to challenges raised by Member States on monitoring and reporting on SDG 16, the Global

Part I: Introduction (continued)

Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies developed this Guide to accompany Member States in their process of including SDG 16 in their VNR, providing suggestions on how and where to report and a compendium of resources and examples to help to improve the quality of VNRs. Some of the other initiatives aimed at improving monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 are referenced throughout this Guide, providing additional resources and information.

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies brings together Member States, the private sector, civil society, and the UN to advance meaningful reporting on SDG 16 and related targets. Click [here](#) for more information on the Global Alliance and contact the Secretariat at sdg16alliance@undp.org to become involved.



Part II: The Significance of SDG 16 in a VNR

The adoption of SDG 16 for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in 2015 ushered in a new kind of development: one that recognizes that there can be neither development without peace nor peace without development. SDG 16 also emphasizes the importance of people-centred institutions for sustainable and equitable progress. The [2019 Global Sustainable Development Report](#) identified six levers for sustainable development, of which good governance is declared the most important. However, according to the [2019 Sustainable Development Goals Report](#), “no substantial advances have been made toward ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, or increasing access to justice.” Global progress on indicators of SDG 16 remain uneven – with pretrial detention rates stalling at 30 per cent, killings of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists on the rise, and an increase in the detection of victims of trafficking in persons, among others. Moreover, institutional mechanisms at the national and local levels to gather data and monitor policy efforts and impact of SDG 16+ are weak. One estimation shows that it will take at least five years before data becomes available for many of the missing indicators for many countries and especially the many population survey-based measures (IEP SDG 16+ Progress Report). <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/03/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf>

With less than 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), urgent progress on SDG

1,456

journalists and human rights defenders have been killed in 61 countries since 2015.



125

countries have adopted **laws and policies** to guarantee people's **right to information**.



16 as both an outcome and an enabler of sustainable development is needed. Through the lens of [SDG 16+](#), which traces the themes of peace, justice, and inclusion throughout the 2030 Agenda, we can see and harness the **catalytic impact** of SDG 16, often referred to as the **‘enabling’ function** of SDG 16. For example, responsive and accountable institutions uphold the rule of law and protect human rights as well as ensure quality education, equal opportunity, and access to basic services, while strengthening women’s participation and leadership connects to improving inclusive and participative decision-making.

The COVID-19 crisis has brought to the forefront the urgency of realizing SDG 16+—specifically to ensure that institutions are accountable, inclusive, and transparent. Inequalities are deepening as the most

Part II: The Significance of SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

vulnerable are suffering disproportionate impacts from the pandemic. Investing in the Voluntary National Review is an important means of promoting inclusive monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+ at the national level. It provides a channel for inclusive public policy dialogue, improved access to and quality of information and freedom of expression, and civil society engagement in decision-making, including vulnerable groups. VNRs are an important part of and can contribute to how countries will recover and build back better from COVID-19 while continuing to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Reporting is a useful tool to not only track **achievements** on SDG 16 but to also encourage them to happen in the first place. In other words, ‘what gets measured, gets done’. There are many possible reasons why this tends to happen. For example, monitoring and reporting on commitments increases **accountability**. Monitoring and reporting on commitments also means that the responsibility for monitoring—which often coincides with the

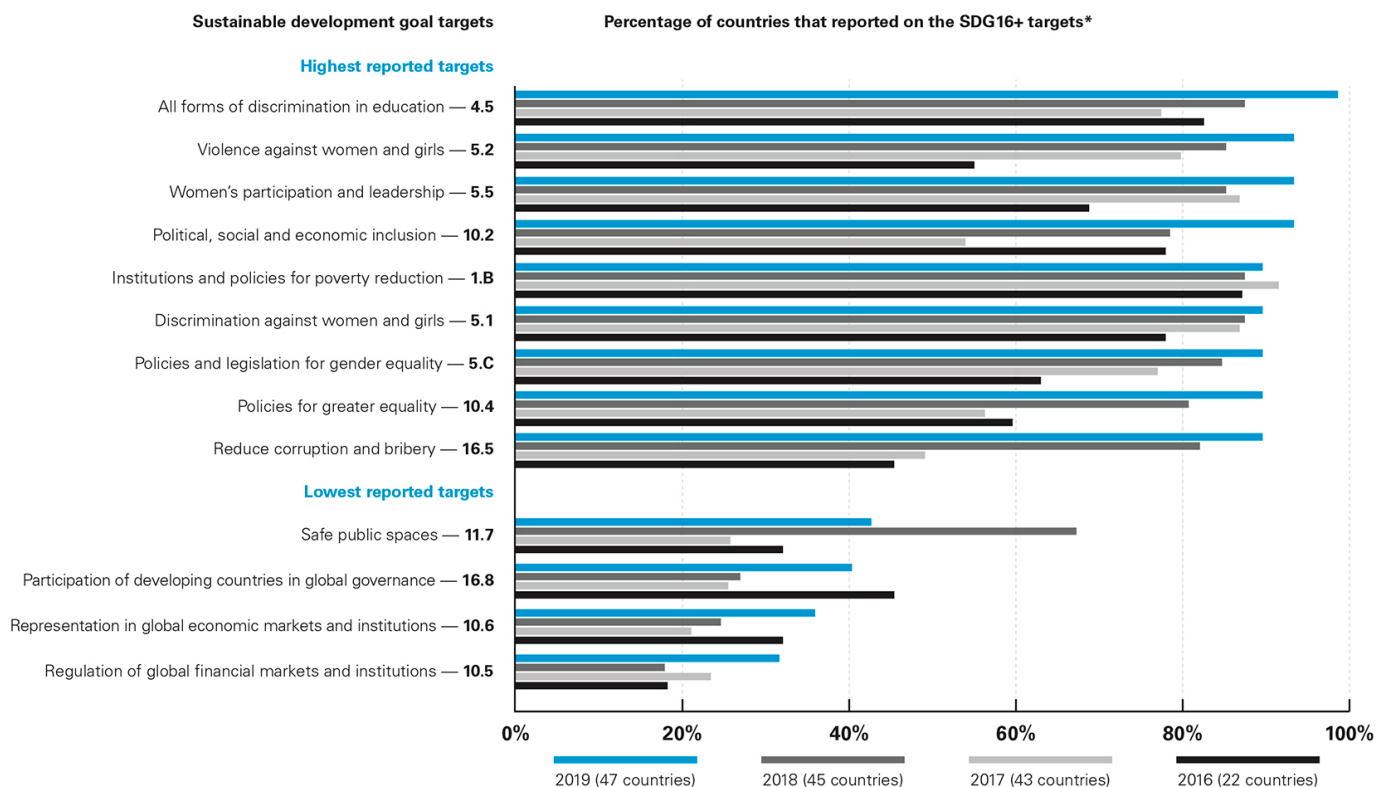
responsibility to implement—gets clarified. Moreover, it enables civil society to hold governments to account. If reporting is carried out through an inclusive and participatory process, it can also lead to greater **ownership** of the 2030 Agenda at all levels of society and strengthen pathways for collaboration across sectors.

Presenting a VNR at the High-Level Political Forum adds **international visibility** and confirms **political commitment** to the SDGs and the important process of monitoring national progress. By comprehensively reviewing SDG 16 in a VNR, a Member State is reaffirming its commitment to creating peaceful, just, and inclusive societies as well as demonstrating transparency in its approaches by acknowledging both key achievements and obstacles. Reporting on SDG 16 can also lead to important discussions within the international community, boosting **peer learning** and domestic and international **resource mobilization** for Member States to accelerate progress on SDG 16.

WHITE & CASE

Voluntary National Reviews 2016 – 2019

Highest & lowest reported targets for SDG16+





Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR

The process of developing the VNR provides a significant opportunity for Member States to put SDG 16 principles of accountability, inclusivity, and participation into action by bringing together diverse individuals, institutions, and organizations to jointly define progress in creating peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The below steps have been informed by different approaches that Member States have undertaken. The steps should be seen as signposts that Member States can consider following as they produce the SDG 16-related content of their VNR, in keeping with their own context, challenges, and opportunities. For example, some of the steps may be best undertaken simultaneously or in a different sequence. This section should be read in close conjunction with the UN's [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Review](#).

STEP 1

Planning: Political and financial investment in SDG 16+ needs to be amplified to accelerate progress on SDG 16+ and to achieve the whole of Agenda 2030. Due to the political sensitivities and cross-cutting nature of SDG 16, a workplan is helpful to coordinate the activities amongst the various actors involved in preparing the SDG 16-related content of the VNR. Ensure that enough time and resources are allocated to develop the content through an inclusive and participatory process, integrate the content with different sections of the VNR, as well as validate the final content with all stakeholders (see Steps 2 -10 of this Guide).

- Reference the [HLPF VNR Database](#) for deadlines for the HLPF
- Discuss timelines and resources available with the designated VNR coordinating mechanism and other penholders
- If helpful, engage the UN Country Team (UNCT) and international donors to provide technical, coordination, and facilitation support from the beginning
- Identify any contextual sensitivities surrounding SDG 16 and strategies to navigate them in the VNR process

STEP 2

Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement: Because SDG 16 is about issues that are relevant to all citizens in all countries (those that are conflict- and non-conflict prone), a transparent multi-stakeholder engagement process is essential for providing a comprehensive picture of progress and deepening national and local ownership.

- Identify the main actors working on peace, justice, and inclusion across different sectors of society and at all levels, i.e., government, national human rights institutions, national statistical offices, civil society, businesses, youth organizations and networks, international organizations, etc. (Reference the [Stakeholder Analysis Template](#))
- Identify who the beneficiaries of these programmes are and who is at risk of being left behind. (Reference the [Leave No One Behind framework](#))
- As much as possible, ensure that the stakeholders identified represent the diversity of the population in sex, SOGI, age, race, ethnicity, language, disability, immigration status, geographic location, political affiliation, religion, and other factors
- Determine the most effective methods to engage with the stakeholders identified and develop strategies to overcome different barriers to participation that may be present due to the political sensitivities of SDG 16 and can connect best with their experiences, i.e., working groups, consultations, surveys, online forums, mobile apps, public information campaigns, etc. (Reference the [Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Assessment Tool](#) and the Framework to Engage

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

Stakeholders in SDG processes, based on the principles of SDG 16—forthcoming)

- Take into account the potential need to sequence governmental and non-governmental engagement in developing the SDG 16-related content
- Put in place measures to reduce risks for stakeholders that engage in the process, i.e., anonymity, separate discussions, etc.
- Articulate the roles for each actor to play to ensure meaningful participation. This includes different types of participation—collecting information, consultation and decision-making. (Reference the [P4R paper: The Whole of Society Approach](#) and [CCIC paper: Progressing National SDGs Implementation](#)) For example, in addition to providing different data sources for the VNR from their networks, businesses can identify scalable technologies that can support SDG monitoring and implementation while civil society can help build public awareness of the VNR process and pursue follow-up actions. Global Compact Local Networks are natural partners for private sector engagement in VNR processes. (Reference the [Global Compact Local Networks Report 2018](#) and the [SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society](#)—specifically the chapter on [Promoting Inclusive Government Consultations](#)—for more important contributions these sectors can make and how government partners can create an enabling environment)

Formalize collaborative working relationships between stakeholders in sharing knowledge and expertise and in collaboration on official data collection, dissemination, and analysis. (Reference the [Partnership between the Kenya National Human Rights Institution and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics](#))

TIP: Ask for permission from the stakeholders engaged to include their names and/or the names of their organizations (offering anonymity as an option) in an Annex to the VNR, outlining what methods were used for different groups.



EXAMPLES:

- Sri Lanka developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to seek inputs and raise awareness across the government, private sector, academia, development partners, and civil society organizations for the preparation of their [2018 VNR](#). During the VNR process, several multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted, and an online platform was developed to engage stakeholders in SDG implementation

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

STEP 3

Jointly Define Reporting Priorities: The scope of the SDG 16 review should be fully informed by the views of diverse stakeholders (i.e., move away from passive consultation and a pre-set agenda). Through the identified strategies for multi-stakeholder engagement, determine what aspects of SDG 16 are available/the most pressing to report on in the VNR, options include:

- Comprehensive review of all SDG 16 indicators (*recommended*)

» [Chile's 2019 VNR](#) provided the data and sources available for all indicators of SDG 16 since 2015. The VNR also described actions taken, challenges experienced, and plans for further SDG 16 implementation.

- Specific targets/indicators of SDG 16 that are most relevant to the national context

» [Azerbaijan's 2019 VNR](#) provided a detailed chapter on SDG 16 with activities, results, and data for seven targets (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.A) with corresponding indicators.

- Priority themes in SDG 16 to cluster relevant SDG 16 targets/indicators under

» [Uruguay's 2019 VNR](#) grouped the SDG 16 targets and indicators into four themes (Violence and Security; Access to Justice and Rights; Transparency, Governance, and Access to Information; Participation and Inclusion) and describes challenges and successes for each.

STEP 4

Data Collection and Gap Analysis: An evidence basis for progress on SDG 16 is important. While data on all SDG 16 indicators may be difficult to find, it is vital to be as comprehensive as possible. In addition, identifying SDG 16 data gaps and challenges in a VNR can provide impetus for enhancing data collection on SDG 16 in the future, including with international support.

- Utilizing the [Human Rights-Based Approach to Data](#), review the data availability and quality, including level of disaggregation, for each SDG 16 indicator/target that has been selected to be included in the VNR
 - Draw on existing systems, evaluations, and reports to determine what official data is available. (Reference the [UNSTATS database, metadata and workplans for Tier II indicators](#))
 - Engage with relevant ministries, the national statistical offices (NSOs), national human rights institutions, supreme audit institutions, etc. on SDG 16, and governmental structures like National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up established to coordinate reporting to other international and regional bodies, i.e., the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
 - National data points within NSOs have been identified under the SDG indicators. Reach out to them. Under the [Guidelines and Best Practices on Data Flows and Global Data Reporting for the SDGs](#), contacting and communicating with national statistical systems via NSO national focal points, taking into account already well-established data reporting mechanisms, is a good practice.
- Use the multi-stakeholder engagement strategies identified to locate sources of non-official data that can be reviewed and incorporated into the VNR by the National Statistical Office or another government institution to help fill the gaps on specific SDG 16 targets/indicators, including from academia, civil society, businesses, etc. (Reference the [SDG 16 Data Initiative, World Bank SDG Atlas](#) and [Oxford Uni Tracker](#) for different data sets available for each country/territory per SDG 16 indicator)

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

- Civil society may choose to develop an alternative VNR report or “Spotlight Report”, drawing on unofficial data sources to provide a comparative analysis of progress. Member States are encouraged to acknowledge the alternative report in their VNR and request that it be published in the [HLPF VNR Database](#) alongside their VNR.
- Annexes written by different stakeholders, i.e., youth, civil society, businesses, etc., can also be included in the VNR.
- Check that the methodologies used for all data in the VNR conforms with the methodological and data collection frameworks approved by [the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators](#) and note the differences, if any. NSOs and other concerned national institutions exchanging data on SDG 16 indicators with international custodian agencies are in the best position to account for these issues.

TIP: With the help of the NSO, national indicator focal points and international custodian agencies create a statistical annex with sources used for each SDG 16 indicator/target under review to include as an Annex in the VNR.



EXAMPLES:

- [The United Kingdom’s 2019 VNR](#) used a combination of global data, government, and non-government sources. Data available on all SDG 16 indicators is included in a [Statistical Annex](#) to the VNR. The Annex lists sources for each indicator and offers an explanation for any difference between the global indicator and the national indicator used. Data can also be accessed through the publicly available UK National Reporting Platform.
- In the preparation of [Sierra Leone’s 2019 VNR](#), civil society took the lead in data collection, holding consultations across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. Data was also collected from the government, district/local councils, traditional leaders, UN agencies, media groups, the private sector, and various studies, surveys, and reports. The Data Collection Instrument used is included in the Annex of the VNR.
- [Lesotho’s 2019 VNR](#) employed two novel approaches to gathering localized, quality data in spite of large data gaps. First, Lesotho conducted “micro perception surveying”—sending targeted questionnaires to 800 citizens. These surveys yielded 622 responses relevant to the SDGs. Second, Lesotho conducted social media analysis of over 45,000 posts categorized by SDG. Particularly relevant to the SDG16+ targets: Lesotho identified SDG 16 “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions” as the goal with the highest interest and citizen engagement with 18,592 posts. SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” followed in third place with 8,689 posts.
- During [Pakistan’s 2019 VNR](#) preparation the Government launched its ‘Data Reporting Gaps Analysis’ study. Each SDG was analyzed for the efforts required to report on its relevant target. National data collection tools were modified to improve data availability with a focus on the inclusivity, equity, and sustainability aspects of the SDGs. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) upgraded the country’s data collection tools. The PBS formed four Technical Sub-Committees to review and finalize data collection instruments and the calculation of indicators based on an internationally acceptable methodology. Through a broad consultative process, they approved certain amendments in data collection tools for both institutional and survey-based instruments.

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

STEP 5

Data Analysis: An analysis of the data gathered and the contextual factors that influence the data set is needed to draw out key conclusions for the VNR.

- Identify trends in the data as a result of SDG 16 implementation over time (i.e. since the last VNR), both where substantial progress has been made and where more attention is needed.
- Identify the capacities for peace and development and the drivers of unrest and conflict that underpin progress on SDG 16. (Reference recent Conflict/Fragility Assessments or conduct one using the [Conflict and Development Analysis Tool](#))
- Identify key successes and challenges in SDG 16 monitoring, reporting, and implementation and analyse whether institutional mechanisms and means of implementation are effective, accountable, and inclusive.
- Identify synergies and trade-offs between efforts to advance SDG 16 and progress on the 2030 Agenda/integration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development and assess how these interlinkages are acted upon in policies, programmes, and plans.
- Assess the different dimensions of Leaving No One Behind, including who benefits from SDG 16-related programmes, efforts to ensure inclusion and reduce inequalities, opportunities for women and girls, barriers for vulnerable groups accessing services, etc. (Reference the [Leave No One Behind framework](#))

TIP: In coordination with the NHRI, NSO and NRMF, develop a list of groups at risk of being left behind, using the recommendations of international, regional, and national human rights mechanisms and indicating whether disaggregated is necessary and available under relevant indicators.

- Review the level of alignment between national frameworks and SDG 16 (i.e., national vision documents, national development plans or sustainable development strategies, local government and subnational development plans, sectoral policies, strategies, plans, and programmes, national budget and sectoral financing frameworks, etc.) as well as what human rights treaties and conventions have been ratified that promote progress on SDG 16. (Reference the [Rapid Integrated Assessment Tool and Universal Human Rights Index](#))
- Review the level of alignment between human rights implementation and SDG 16 (i.e., human rights treaties and conventions ratified, national human rights action plans, recommendations by human rights mechanisms in the concluding observations that link implementation of human rights with SDGs and targets) using the [Universal Human Rights Index](#) and interactive [world map](#) of ratification of 18 human rights treaties.
- Assess the impact of SDG 16-related programmes on neighbouring countries/territories and future generations and whether this has been considered in relevant plans and policies.

STEP 6

Drafting the Narrative: Drawing on the conclusions found in the data analysis, draft the SDG 16-related content of the VNR. Refer to Section IV of this Guide for suggestions on what and where to include information in the VNR.

- Establish a method for drafting that maximizes participation amongst all stakeholders via committee, workshop, online tools, etc.
- Contextualize the data by explaining why the trends in SDG 16 implementation might be occurring, i.e., emerging challenges, new political leadership or legislature, etc.

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

STEP 7

Incorporation with the VNR: Recognizing the indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda and that SDG 16 has firm links to other goals, the final content needs to be fully integrated into and aligned with the rest of the VNR. Refer to Section IV of this Guide for suggestions on what to include in the various sections.

- Work with the other penholders of the VNR and the VNR coordination mechanism to incorporate SDG 16 content into relevant sections.

STEP 8

Define next steps to advance SDG 16 in country: Based on the data analysis and in consultation with multi-stakeholders, define national objectives on SDG 16 that need to be met.

- Work with data analysts to build upon previous analyse and enable stringent reporting on progress (i.e., since the last VNR). Consistent and ongoing reporting could be mentioned as a contribution to achieve SDG 16 accountability-wise.

STEP 9

Multi-stakeholder Validation: To continue the inclusive and participatory process of developing the SDG 16-related content of the VNR and localize ownership, it's important that the final content be validated by the diverse stakeholders engaged throughout the process.

- Work with the VNR coordination mechanism to carry out a process of validation that enables participation from all stakeholders.



EXAMPLES:

- The findings and recommendations of [Albania's 2018 VNR](#) were validated through a consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all stakeholders, including local government, academia, civil society, and the business community.
- [Ghana's 2019 VNR](#) process was coordinated by the SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee that managed a team of technical experts to prepare a harmonized VNR report that went through a series of validation meetings including children, youth groups, journalists, and national-level entities. A summary of comments from the validation workshops is provided in an Annex.

STEP 10

HLPF Presentation: Non-governmental stakeholders involved in the VNR process can be invited to present the findings of the review alongside the Member State delegation at the HLPF in New York. Involving non-governmental stakeholders in the VNR presentation demonstrates inclusivity from beginning to end of the VNR process and emphasizes the importance of everyone's contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

- Discuss the presentation at HLPF with other penholders and the VNR coordination mechanism and suggest non-governmental candidates that had a key role in preparing the VNR to be considered, including those from vulnerable/marginalized communities.



EXAMPLES:

- The President of the Local Network of the Global Compact in Argentina served as part of the official delegation to the HLPF in 2017. The Local Network organized two high level sessions with CEOs and Sustainability Officers from Argentinian companies to discuss the Voluntary National

Part III: How to Report on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

Review, leading to a chapter in the [VNR](#) on the role of the private sector in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ([Global Compact Local Networks Report 2018](#))

- Mongolia focused on the inclusion of underrepresented groups and the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in its [VNR](#). Mongolia's delegation at the 2019 HLPF was made up of representatives from the Mongolian Government, civil society, and youth. ([Mongolia HLPF Presentation](#))
- There is a [UN Youth Delegate Programme](#) as well where young people's view can be represented in their official delegations.

STEP 11

Post-VNR Action: The success of a VNR should be measured by the impact it has had in advancing SDG implementation. The evidence gathered and the network of stakeholders created for the SDG 16-related content of the VNR should be utilized to take forward important action points. Some of these include:

- Organize regular post-VNR workshops with stakeholders to discuss lessons learned from the process and plans to address gaps identified.
- Feed lessons learned on SDG 16 into national planning and budgetary processes to ensure that peace, justice, and inclusion are addressed holistically.
- Review regularly or develop a national roadmap for SDG 16 and financial framework.
- Identify or create inclusive dialogue processes that stakeholders can be involved in throughout the year to continue to shape national priorities and approaches on peace, justice, and inclusion.
- Mobilize support for and create new monitoring systems (or build on existing) to fill gaps identified in data to monitor SDG 16.
- Increase collaboration with national human rights systems and Supreme Audit institutions.



EXAMPLES:

- After [Guatemala's 2019 VNR](#), the government conducted a series of post-VNR workshops with different stakeholders. The government is also working to generate the data that was missing from the VNR, with a particular focus on disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. The government also embedded the lessons learned from the VNR into the 4-year national development strategy—translating long-term goals for the 2030 Agenda into short-term milestones. These priorities were then signed off by government representatives from all levels and across sectors, which the collaboration on the VNR helped make possible ([2020 UNDP-TAP Network Webinar](#)).
- In Lesotho, the [2019 VNR](#) process was an important opportunity to bring key actors and policy influencers together. Lesotho is now utilizing their VNR as a policy instrument to influence the country's efforts to stabilize the cyclical processes of instability and exclusion. Lesotho is also working towards strengthening quantitative and qualitative measurement of SDG 16 ([Post-VNR Webinar](#)).



Part IV: Where to include information on SDG 16 in a VNR

Member States choose what information to present in a VNR. It is recommended that Member States follow the [reporting guidelines](#) set out by the Secretary-General, outlining a common structure for the content of all VNRs. One of the sections in the common structure is entitled “Progress on Goals and Targets.” This is where the bulk of the information on SDG 16 implementation is likely to appear. However, since SDG 16 is both a goal in its own right and an enabler of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, SDG 16 content is also relevant for many other sections of the VNR. The below information offers guidance on what to include in an SDG 16 chapter in the “Progress on Goals and Targets” section of a VNR as well as key points related to SDG 16 that can enhance sections of the VNR.

A) IN THE SDG 16 CHAPTER

The SDG 16 chapter includes a detailed narrative in the **“Progress on Goals and Targets”** section of the VNR that includes the main results of the data analysis and lessons learned on SDG 16 implementation. It’s important for Member States to address challenges associated with SDG 16 clearly in this section to demonstrate transparency and build trust as well as facilitate peer learning and resource mobilization at the international level.

- Identify trends, successes, and challenges in implementing SDG 16 backed by evidence and explain why these may be occurring in the given context.
- Share key results that illustrate progress on SDG 16 and describe why this is important for the context.
- Showcase concrete examples of how SDG 16 has enabled progress across the 2030 Agenda and is ensuring no one is left behind.
- Describe mechanisms in place for follow-up on monitoring, reporting, and implementation of SDG 16, including plans to improve areas of underperformance and sustain progress moving forward.
- Explain the monitoring system used to inform the SDG 16 chapter, including gaps in data for SDG 16 and areas where support is needed.

TIP: Include a statistical annex outlining sources of data and progress overtime.

B) IN OTHER PARTS OF THE VNR REPORT

Since SDG 16 is an enabler of progress across the 2030 Agenda, much of the analysis and conclusions drawn from the SDG 16 review can be used to inform other parts of the VNR. The below points related to SDG 16 should be considered for incorporation into the identified sections of the VNR.

“Highlights” section:

- Feature salient points or case studies on SDG 16 that should be emphasized to the international community, including key success and challenges where support is needed.

TIP: Use this information to inform the short “Main Messages” summary (700 words) that is circulated amongst Member States ahead of the HLPF.

“Introduction” section:

- Briefly provide the context of peace, justice, and inclusion in the country/territory that frames implementation of the 2030 Agenda, i.e., historical legacy of violence, political transitions and/or processes, legislative reforms, levels of social cohesion, public perception of safety and security, etc.

“Methodology and process for preparation of the review” section:

- Explain how the scope of SDG 16 review was decided and how the content was developed through an inclusive and participatory process.
- Describe the whole-of-government approach used to develop the SDG 16 content, including what levels and sectors were engaged.
- Describe the whole-of-society approach used to develop the SDG 16 content and identify which strategies were most effective at including non-governmental stakeholders in the process and how they helped overcome challenges to effective inclusion of vulnerable groups.

TIP: With permission, include a list of stakeholders engaged and through what method in an Annex to the VNR. Also, include as well a list of groups left behind the country based on the recommendations of international, regional, and national human rights mechanisms.

Part IV: Where to include information on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

“Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the VNRS” section:

- Explain how developing the SDG 16 content of the VNR through an inclusive and participatory process created ownership and enhanced collaboration across different levels and sectors of government, national human rights institutions, civil society, private sector, etc.
- Describe how engaging different groups, particularly women and youth, children, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, etc. in the VNR preparation helped to validate their unique experiences and enable them to contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda.
- Describe any awareness-raising/public information campaigns undertaken to promote SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda, including on the VNR process.

“Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks” section:

- Discuss the level of alignment between the SDGs and national frameworks, including ratified human rights treaties and conventions, and how these policies are leading to concrete actions on SDG 16.
- Explain how SDG 16 has been integrated into national frameworks such as legislation, budgets, policies, and plans across sectors and levels of government, including what guidance and recommendations from regional and international mechanisms have been utilized.

“Integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions” section:

- Provide examples of how SDG 16 has accelerated progress on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental).
- Highlight national and local development plans, policies, and programmes that leverage the interlinkages of SDG 16 with the other SDGs and describe the various actors involved in their implementation.
 - Reference the analysis of [SDG 16+](#) revealing

close links between SDG 16 and SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11 and SDG 17.

- Describe considerations made for the well-being of future generations included in SDG 16-related programmes and national frameworks.

“Leaving no one behind” section:

- Describe actions taken at all levels of government to reduce inequalities and discrimination, promote inclusive societies, and prioritize outcomes for vulnerable groups.
- Explain strategies used to reach those furthest behind first and overcome barriers for vulnerable groups to access essential services and participate in decision-making processes, taking into account the digital divide, language differences, etc.
- Articulate efforts to empower women and girls in creating peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.
- Explain how vulnerable groups and their unique needs are being identified in SDG 16-related programmes.
- Describe how the human rights-based approach to data was utilized to develop the SDG 16-related content.

“Institutional mechanisms” section:

- Explain how responsibilities for monitoring, reporting, and implementation of SDG 16 targets are allocated across various levels and sectors of government and highlight coordination mechanisms that promote coherence.
- Describe how civil society, businesses, national human rights institutions and others are systematically engaged in SDG 16 efforts, including what mechanisms are utilized for cross-sector collaboration.
- Describe systems in place that enable meaningful engagement of youth, women, children, persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced populations, and other special groups in decision-making processes.
- Explain how the government ensures that mechanisms for reporting and follow-up are effective, accountable, and inclusive.

Part IV: Where to include information on SDG 16 in a VNR (continued)

“**Structural issues**” section:

- Identify structural issues that are barriers for progress on monitoring, reporting, and implementation of SDG 16 and plans to address them
- Identify cross-border challenges in implementing SDG 16-related programmes, including unintended consequences for people in neighbouring countries/territories.

“**Means of implementation**” section:

- Explain the means of implementation (financing,

capacity-building, technology, partnerships, etc.) that exist and are being mobilized to advance SDG 16.

“**Conclusion and next steps**” section:

- Outline plans to act on the findings of the review of SDG 16, including where support is needed from the international community.
- Articulate new commitments to advance progress on SDG 16.



Part V: Resource Compendium

OVERALL VNR RESOURCES:

[Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UNSDG, 2017): outlines a set of guidelines for countries reporting on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda

[Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Review](#) (DESA, 2020): provides general information and the building blocks for preparing VNRs

[HLPF VNR Database](#) (DESA): platform dedicated to compiling documentation from countries participating in VNRs and providing information on the HLPF Synthesis reports of the [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#) and [2019](#) VNRs (DESA)

[Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines](#) (UN Secretary-General, 2019)

[Voluntary Local Review Lab](#) (IGES): online platform with a map of and information about cities and regions taking a lead on Voluntary Local Reviews

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES:

[Action Platform: Business Reporting on the SDGs](#) (GRI, UN Global Compact, and partners): an online community of peers, experts, and investors that provides businesses with tools to measure and report on the SDGs

[Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs Toolkit](#) (TAP Network, 2016): for civil society, activists, and policy practitioners to initiate the creation of a national justice plan

Analysis on VNRs and Spotlight Reports with a focus on SDG 16 (GIZ/TAP Network, Forthcoming)

[Empowering Civil Society for National Reporting and Action on SDG 16 Report](#) (TAP Network, ADA, Forus, and partners, 2019): a compilation of national civil society case studies and civil society spotlight reports on SDG 16

Framework to Engage Stakeholders in SDG processes, based on the principles of SDG 16 (working title, UNDP, Forthcoming)

[Global Compact Local Networks Report 2018](#): demonstrates how Local Networks of the Global Compact around the world are engaging businesses and investors to implement the 2030 Agenda

[Global Dev Hub](#) (UNDP): online community of international development practitioners and platform to organize online consultations

[Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit](#) (TAP Network, 2016): provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up, and accountability of SDG 16

Part V: Resource Compendium (continued)

[Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs](#) (HRC/OHCHR, 2018): refers to a number of basic principles to guide the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs

[Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism](#): major groups and stakeholders interested in engaging in the HLPF can register for the self-organized coordination mechanism and mailing list

[Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports](#) (DESA, 2020): provides a review of the current status of multi-stakeholder engagement in the 2030 Agenda implementation based on an assessment of the 158 VNRs submitted to the HLPF between 2016-2019

[Ready for Review Project in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings Report](#) (CSPPS, 2020): describes efforts to strengthen the engagement and capacity of civil society organizations in fragile and conflict-affected countries participating in the 2019 VNR process

[Recommendations for the participation of civil society in the implementation of Agenda 2030 \(A/HRC/41/41/Add.2\)](#) (UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, 2019): practical recommendations for the participation of civil society in the implementation of Agenda 2030, including in a VNR process

[SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society](#) (TAP Network, 2019): features a variety of distinct approaches civil society can use to monitor and follow up on SDG implementation

[Stakeholder Analysis Template](#) (Tool4Dev): downloadable template to identify the stakeholders for an initiative, including their level of influence, which issues are important to them, and how they will be engaged

[Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Assessment Tool](#) (ESCAP/ IAP2): provides practical indicators of meaningful engagement to be built into planning, delivering, and managing various engagement processes

A Human Rights Based Approach to Data—Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (OHCHR): practical human rights guidance to data collection and disaggregation in order to leave no-one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by identifying groups left behind as a first step towards ensuring their active and meaningful participation in all stages of the data life cycle

[Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#) (OHCHR): describes the conceptual and methodological framework for human rights indicators recommended by international and national human rights mechanisms and used by a growing number of governmental and non-governmental actors

[Illustrative Tables of Human Rights Indicators](#) (OHCHR): as a companion tool to the Human Rights Indicators Guide, contains structural, process, and outcome indicators, including relevant SDG indicators

UN Handbook on Youth, Peace and Security (forthcoming): provides guidance on meaningful youth inclusion and participation as well as monitoring and evaluation

Voices of SDG 16+ campaign (IPI, TAP Network, Saferworld, and partners): a collaborative, multi-media campaign to bring the work of civil society on SDG 16+ to the 2019 HLPF

Praia Handbook on Governance Indicators (UN Statistical Commission/Praia City Group): operational guidance on achieving international statistical standards of governance statistics

DATA COLLECTION AND GAP ANALYSIS RESOURCES:

[Conflict and Development Analysis Tool](#) (UNSDG, 2016): provides guidance on conducting conflict analysis and applying the findings for a range of purposes

[EvalYouth](#) (EvalPartners): a global network of young and emerging evaluators of sustainable development

[Governance Data Alliance](#): a community of governance data producers, users, and funders

Part V: Resource Compendium (continued)

committed to the effective production and use of high-quality data to advance democratic governance reforms in countries

[Handbook on Governance Statistics](#) (Praia Group on Governance Statistics, 2020): provides a foundation for the development of international statistical guidance and standards in all areas of governance statistics

[Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Guidance Note](#) (OHCHR, 2018): a framework of indicators to develop and deploy appropriate statistical indicators in furthering the cause of human rights

[Human Rights Data Explorer](#) (Danish Institute for Human Rights): a searchable database that links monitoring information from the international human rights system with the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda

[Human Rights Guide to the SDGs](#) (Danish Institute for Human Rights): a searchable database that links the latest recommendations issued by international human rights monitoring mechanisms with SDG targets and rights-holder groups per country

[Ibrahim Index of African Governance](#) (Mo Ibrahim Foundation): a tool that measures and monitors governance performance in African countries

[Improving Data and Dialogue for Peace](#) (UNESCO/IEP): measurement framework of the structural and interpersonal conditions that enable dialogue to be an effective instrument for peacebuilding

[International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes](#) (UNODC 2015): provides a comprehensive framework for producing statistics on crime and criminal justice

[Leave No One Behind framework](#) (UNDP, 2018): discussion paper and framework to assess and address different dimensions of LNOB in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

[Metadata Repository on the SDG Indicators \(UNSD\)](#): reflects the latest reference metadata information provided by the UN system and other international organizations on data and statistics for the Tier I and II indicators in the global indicator framework

[Open SDG Reporting Platform](#): open source, free-to-reuse platform for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the SDGs

[Rapid Integrated Assessment Tool](#) (UNDP, 2017): supports countries in mainstreaming the SDGs into national and subnational planning by helping assess their readiness for SDG implementation

[Reports produced by individual Supreme Audit Institutions on the SDGs](#) (INTOSAI): database of reports on different countries

[SDG 16 Data Initiative](#): a dashboard and map of global open data sets to track SDG 16 progress globally and in countries/territories over time

[SDG 16 + Progress Report 2019 \(IEP\)](#): a comprehensive global audit of progress on available SDG 16 indicators

[Monitoring to Implement Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies](#) (UNDP, 2017): methodology for monitoring SDG 16 in three phases at the country level and results of pilot initiative

[The SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment Tool](#) (UNDP, 2017): methodology to identify catalytic policy and/or programme areas or 'accelerators' that can trigger positive multiplier effects across the SDGs, and solutions to bottlenecks that impede the optimal performance of interventions

[UN Open SDG Data Hub](#) (UNSD): platform for exploration, analysis, and use of SDG data sources for evidence-based decision-making and advocacy

[UN Treaty Body Database \(OHCHR\)](#): searchable database of all public documents adopted or received by the human rights treaty bodies

[UPR Database \(OHCHR\)](#): provides UPR documentation by country

[Universal Human Rights Index \(OHCHR\)](#): online database that compiles recommendations from all UN Human Rights Mechanisms and that can be searched by specific SDG targets, groups of persons affected, and/or themes

[World Development Indicators on Monitoring the SDGs \(The World Bank\)](#): dashboards present data to explore and compare data for monitoring the SDGs

Part V: Resource Compendium (continued)

SDG 16 INDICATOR SPECIFIC RESOURCES:

16.1.1

[Global Study on Homicide](#) (UNODC, 2019): aimed at improving understanding and providing policymakers with an updated dataset of cross-national data that evaluates the scale of homicide globally

16.1.2, 16.1.3, 16.1.4, & 16.3.1:

[Metadata and Technical Guidance Note](#) (OHCHR)

Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative—[Nuclear Questionnaire](#) (UNODC, UNDP, and partners, 2016)

[Manual on Victimization Surveys](#) (UNODC/UNECE, 2010): provides a comprehensive source of information for developing national victimization surveys

16.2.2

[Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) (UNODC, 2018): provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional, and national levels, based primarily on trafficking cases detected between 2014 and 2016

1.1.1 & 16.5.2

[Manual on Corruption Surveys](#) (UNODC, UNDP, and partners, 2018): methodological guidelines on the measurement of bribery and other forms of corruption through sample surveys

16.10.1

[Metadata and other methodological materials on SDG indicator 16.10.1](#) (OHCHR): description of the methodological and data collection framework of the indicator

[Database of Killed Journalists](#) (UNESCO): searchable database of reported killings of journalists by country

16.10.2

[Instrument for Monitoring and Reporting on SDG indicator 16.10.2 on public access to information](#) (UNESCO): survey templates and instruction manual in English, French, and Spanish

16.A.1

[Accreditation of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (OHCHR): up-to-date world map of NHRI accreditation based on data provided by the Sub-committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (SCA-GANHRI)

[Metadata and other methodological materials on SDG indicator 16.a.1](#) (OHCHR): description of the methodological and data collection framework of the indicator, including infographics and related analysis

[Status Accreditation Chart of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (OHCHR): latest list of accreditation status for NHRIs under the Paris Principles as reported by SCA-GANHRI

16.B.1 & 10.3.1

[Metadata and Technical Guidance Note](#) (OHCHR): latest methodological guidance on data compilation

All survey-based indicators under SDG 16+:

The SDG 16 Global Indicators Survey Module (UNODC, UNDP, and OHCHR, Forthcoming): offers National Statistical Offices a module to collect data on the 12 global survey-based indicators under SDG 16+ through their existing household surveys

POST-VNR RESOURCES:

[Post-VNR Best Practices on SDG 16](#) (TAP Network / UNDP, Forthcoming)

[SDG 16 Hub, Post VNR Page](#): latest resources from UNDP and the TAP Network on post-VNR processes

[Post-VNR Webinar Summary](#) (TAP Network / UNDP, 2020): summary of webinar focused on the experiences, lessons learned, and best practices of governments and other stakeholders working on post-VNR processes



Part VI: MEMBER STATE EXAMPLES

This table showcases positive process in preparing for the VNRS with an emphasis on SDG 16. Note that it will be updated regularly as new and unique practices come to light.

VNR	Aspects of SDG 16 reviewed	Method for preparing the VNR
Albania 2018 VNR	Albania selected two indicators of SDG 16 to report on among limited data availability (16.1.1, 16.3.2). Albania also reviewed the level of alignment between SDG 16 and national policies and provided an analysis of progress on innovative good governance.	Consultations for the preparation of the report were organized from January to June of 2018, seeking the cooperation, engagement, and validation of all stakeholders, including local government, academia, civil society, and the business community. Some businesses and civil society organizations also used the opportunity of the VNR to integrate the SDGs into their business model and activities. The VNR includes a Statistical Annex with sources for data, drawing on existing reports and administrative data.
Argentina 2017 VNR	Argentina reported on the level of alignment between government priorities and the SDGs, including SDG 16 and the status of indicator development for selected targets (16.1, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.7) and the ministry/organization responsible for each.	Argentina engaged subnational levels of government and different sectors in the development of the VNR, including civil society, academia, and the private sector. The private sector developed a chapter in the VNR through the Local Network of the Global Compact. The President of the network also served as part of the official Argentinian delegation to the HLPF in 2017.
Azerbaijan 2019 VNR	Azerbaijan provided a detailed chapter on SDG 16 with activities, results, and data for seven targets with corresponding indicators (including 16.1, 16.1.1; 16.2, 16.2.1, 16.2.2, 16.3, 16.3.2; 16.6, 16.6.1; 16.9, 16.9.1; 16.10, 16.10.2; 16.A, 16.A.1)	The VNR was prepared in collaboration with the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, which is composed of technical experts and representatives of various state institutions, as well as academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, youth organizations, international partners, and think tanks. The information presented is based on global and national resources, data collected from relevant state agencies, the private sector, and online surveys.
Chile 2019 VNR	Chile reviewed the data and sources available for all indicators of SDG 16 since 2015. The VNR also assessed the level of alignment of SDG 16 with national frameworks, described actions taken, challenges experienced, and plans for further SDG 16 implementation.	Chile designed focus groups that sought to prioritize the voice and participation of populations such as street people, persons with disabilities, immigrants, and indigenous peoples to inform their 2019 VNR. The VNR also includes a list of stakeholders who participated in preparatory workshops for each of the goals reported on.

Part VI: MEMBER STATE EXAMPLES (continued)

VNR	Aspects of SDG 16 reviewed	Method for preparing the VNR
Ghana 2019 VNR	<p>Ghana reported the data available on nine indicators of SDG 16 (16.1.1, 16.1.3, 16.1.4, 16.2.1, 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.5.1, 16.9.1, 16.10.2).</p>	<p>The VNR process was coordinated by the SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee that managed a team of technical experts to prepare a harmonized VNR report that went through a series of validation meetings including children, youth groups, journalists, and national-level entities. A summary of comments from the validation workshops is provided in an Annex. As part of the VNR process, Ghana assessed how the LNOB principle has been put into practice. Population groups in danger of being left behind were identified, as well as the underlying factors that drive their exclusion.</p>
Guatemala 2019 VNR	<p>Guatemala reviewed all SDG 16 indicators in relation to their national development priorities.</p>	<p>Guatemala used a variety of collaborative information gathering initiatives with various stakeholders to inform their VNR. Numerous data sources were cited, including the government, UN reports, businesses, and NGOs. After the VNR, the government conducted a series of post-VNR workshops with different stakeholders. The government is also working to generate the data that was missing from the VNR, with a particular focus on disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. The government also embedded the lessons learned from the VNR into the four-year national development strategy—translating long-term goals for the 2030 Agenda into short-term milestones. These priorities were then signed off by government representatives from all levels and across sectors, which the collaboration on the VNR helped make possible.</p>
Lesotho 2019 VNR	<p>Lesotho described key actions taken to promote a peaceful, just, and inclusive society and reported on national development indicators that correlate with various aspects of SDG 16. In addition, the latest data available for a select number of SDG 16 indicators (16.1.1D, 16.1.4D, 16.2.2D, 16.2.3D, 16.3.2, 16.5.1, 16.9.1) is included in an Annex.</p>	<p>Lesotho developed its VNR through a series of consultations with stakeholders from across all levels and sectors and held a National VNR Conference to validate the findings of its VNR, including representatives of various government ministries, the UNCT, development partners, the private sector, academia, civil society, women groups, persons with disabilities, youth, and children. To support multi-stakeholder engagement in the VNR and use new forms of data to track progress in SDGs, Lesotho engaged in two novel initiatives: a social media network analysis and a real-time monitoring of citizen perceptions. Lesotho is now utilizing its VNR as a policy instrument to influence the country's efforts to stabilize the cyclical processes of instability and exclusion. Lesotho is also working towards strengthening quantitative and qualitative measurement of SDG 16.</p>

Part VI: MEMBER STATE EXAMPLES (continued)

VNR	Aspects of SDG 16 reviewed	Method for preparing the VNR
Mongolia 2019 VNR	<p>Mongolia reported progress and challenges on SDG 16, including on human rights, inclusion, and corruption. In a statistical annex, select indicators (16.1.1, 16.1.2, 16.1.3, 16.2.1, 16.2.2, 16.6.1, 16.5.1 (5), 16.6.2, 16.7.1 (6), 16.10.1, 16.10.2 (7), 16.a.1) are reported on since 2015.</p>	<p>Mongolia focused on the inclusion of underrepresented groups and the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in its VNR. The process involved over 10 consultations and a national-level discussion with over 100 participants. Mongolia's delegation at the 2019 HLPF was made up of representatives from the Mongolian government, civil society, and youth. Mongolia also took concrete steps after the VNR to address the cross-cutting issue of air pollution by conducting a systems analysis of drivers, bottlenecks, and impacts and developing short- and long-term actions for improvement.</p>
Pakistan 2019 VNR		<p>Pakistan focused on multi-stakeholder engagement and a 'whole-government' approach. Consultative sessions at the federal, provincial, and federally administered areas levels included women parliamentarians, government officials, private sector, development partners, civil society, think tanks, and academia. Stakeholders were divided into thematic clusters encompassing interrelated and cross-cutting SDGs where discussions were held to identify local priorities. Key findings of these consultations were compiled by the provinces into sub-VNR reports. These reports were collated at the MoPDR to articulate Pakistan's overall level of preparedness vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda. A parallel consultation process was initiated in collaboration with civil society organizations. This process had the dual objectives of informing the public at the grassroots level about the SDGs and the VNR and of seeking their input on improving policies and plans for achieving the SDGs. Pakistan's private sector conducted a number of separate consultations, whose inputs are included in this report. A national-level consultation deliberated on the draft VNR Report before it was finalized.</p>
Sierra Leone 2019 VNR	<p>Sierra Leone reported successes on SDG 16 and data related to some indicators of SDG 16, including 16.3.2, 16.1.4, and 16.9.1.</p>	<p>In the preparation of the VNR, civil society took the lead in data collection, holding consultations across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. Data was also collected from the government, district/local councils, traditional leaders, UN agencies, media groups, the private sector, and various studies, surveys, and reports. The Data Collection Instrument, a list of consultations held, a list of stakeholders involved, and a position paper written by civil society organizations are included as Annexes to the VNR.</p>

Part VI: MEMBER STATE EXAMPLES (continued)

VNR	Aspects of SDG 16 reviewed	Method for preparing the VNR
Sri Lanka 2018 VNR	Sri Lanka reported progress and results related to SDG 16 Targets 1 through 7.	Sri Lanka developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to seek inputs and raise awareness across the government, private sector, academia, development partners, and civil society organizations for the preparation of its VNR. Several multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted, and an online platform was developed to engage stakeholders in SDG implementation. A validation workshop was organized for several stakeholder groups where a synthesis of the final draft report with key findings, challenges, and way forward related to all 17 SDGs were validated. An online platform was developed to engage all stakeholders beyond the VNR 2018 with a soft launch but has yet to be fully implemented. It is hoped that the best practices from the SEP can be used to engage with the current government in the roll-out of new development plans.
Turkey 2019 VNR	Turkey assessed progress on SDG 16 according to three focus areas: Prevention of crime and violence; Equal access to justice; and Effective governance. Data available since 2010 is presented in a statistical annex for selected indicators (16.1.1, 16.3.2, 16.6.1, 16.6.2, 16.7.1 (8), 16.9.1).	During the VNR preparations, 2,962 representatives were consulted directly by government bodies as well as 312 NGOs, 2,000 companies, and 50 municipalities. Public entities, NGOs, and stakeholders of each SDG target identified gaps and developed recommendations. The process included 20 meetings, which encompassed six roundtable meetings with the participation of over 300 experts and executives representing around 150 institutions.
The United Kingdom 2019 VNR	The UK described recent action taken to achieve all targets under Goal 16 as well as examples of efforts to leave no one behind. Data available on all SDG 16 indicators is included in a Statistical Annex . The Annex lists sources for each indicator and offers an explanation for any difference between the global indicator and the national indicator used.	Starting in 2018, a range of engagement activities was undertaken to prepare the VNR, reaching more than 380 organizations. The VNR drew upon a combination of global data, government, and nongovernment sources. To ensure that UK data relating to the Global Indicators is available publicly in an open and transparent way, The UK National Reporting Platform was developed. The Platform lists all the Global Indicators and reports data where available, including the source, disaggregation, and other relevant information.

Part VI: MEMBER STATE EXAMPLES (continued)

VNR	Aspects of SDG 16 reviewed	Method for preparing the VNR
Uruguay 2019 VNR	Uruguay grouped all SDG 16 targets under four themes: Violence and Security; Access to Justice and Rights; Transparency, Governance, and Access to Information; and Participation and Inclusion and reported on challenges and successes for each. The Statistical Annex includes the data available overtime for all SDG 16 indicators.	The process of preparing the VNR began with a mapping of actors linked to each of the goals and the designation of the ministries responsible for producing the different chapters. The private sector, academia, and civil society were then engaged to provide inputs, recognizing the different sources of data each group has access to.