

WAYS FORWARD ON MONITORING

SDG16+

GLOBAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

5-7 FEBRUARY 2020
COPENHAGEN
DENMARK

HOSTED BY:
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON
PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
AND THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY REPORT



**THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**

WORKSHOP: WAYS FORWARD ON MONITORING SDG16+

In recent years, following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several initiatives have emerged to support UN Member States in their monitoring and reporting efforts on issues related to Peace, Justice and Inclusion (SDG 16+). To date, however, only a few countries and statistical offices have experience in producing governance data or in establishing the type of inclusive data ecosystems needed to monitor and report on SDG 16+. 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.

In response to the challenges related to SDG16+ monitoring, the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Danish Institute for Human Rights convened a global technical workshop entitled 'Ways Forward on Monitoring SDG 16+' and held 5-7 February 2020 in Copenhagen. Over 70 participants from all regions and diverse sectors (United Nations, civil society organizations, private sector, governments, national statistics offices and national human rights institutions) engaged in substantive discussions on thematic and cross-cutting SDG 16+ monitoring issues such as the nationalization of indicators; alignment of human rights and SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting; data collection and disaggregation; alternative data sources; stakeholder engagement; and institutionalization of monitoring mechanisms.

SDG 16+ is known as the group of 36 SDG targets covering the 2030 Agenda aspects related to peace, justice, and inclusion. The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies elaborated on the concept: [see here](#).

Workshop Overall Findings

After the first thematic review of SDG 16 and the conclusion of the first cycle of SDG review in July 2019, it became evident that progress towards targets related to SDG 16+ is gravely lagging. Given the cross-cutting importance of peace, justice, inclusion, and participation in the 2030 Agenda, this impediment has and will continue to have dire consequences for those most vulnerable. Key challenges of SDG 16+ relate to its wide scope and complexity and to the disconnect between SDGs and other existing relevant processes, including with the human rights system. It also relates to critical data gaps ([see Visualization of SDG16+ Monitoring Initiatives](#)) and to an insufficient use of existing data to monitor and accelerate progress.

Key highlights of challenges for SDG 16+ monitoring from the workshop:

- ◆ Many countries are still far from achieving SDG 16+ and have not made significant steps to fulfil the pledge to leave no one behind.
- ◆ Monitoring progress of SDG 16+ presents persistent challenges:
 - (1) there are data gaps against global indicators, with a significant number of Tier II and Tier III indicators covering SDG 16+;
 - (2) there are indicator gaps where global indicators do not cover essential components of the targets (which is where the ambition of the 2030 Agenda is reflected), and
 - (3) existing data often does not represent all segments of the population (e.g., lack of data disaggregation and community-specific data).
- ◆ Because of the flaws in its monitoring, VNR reporting on SDG 16+ and monitoring of SDG 16+ at the national level are still weak.

Key recommendations to move forward:

- ◆ There is need to **connect existing and emerging monitoring initiatives and institutional structures** (e.g., SDG coordination mechanisms and national mechanism for reporting and follow-up on human rights (NMRFs)) to avoid duplication, enhance efficiency and coherence in delivery of countries' international commitments, reduce reporting burden and improve efforts to accelerate change. The pledge to build on such synergies underlines the linkages between SDG 16+ and SDG 17, which focuses on partnerships and policy coherence.
- ◆ Make better use of the **wealth of information from existing and emerging data sources**, which are critical to **complement the statistical monitoring of SDG 16+** with relevant quantitative and qualitative data ([see Repository](#)). Examples include data from: national oversight bodies (e.g., national human rights institutions, supreme audit institutions), UN relevant bodies and agencies (e.g., OHCHR, Human Rights Council and monitoring mechanisms, International Labour Organisation), civil society (e.g., citizen-generated data, community data, data from NGOs and labour unions) and the private sector (e.g., internal operational data, offshore operations, big data).
- ◆ National, subnational and global SDG 16+ monitoring efforts can benefit from **establishing institutionalized mechanisms to enable and coordinate a pluralistic ecosystem of data (SDG 16+ data web)**, creating guidelines and providing capacity-building to allow for a consistent, complementary and useful data collection, analysis and dissemination with the participation of all relevant actors.

Moving from Monitoring to Action: Considerations from the Workshop

Data can guide our drive and push for the change needed. Here are a few tips from participants on how to step up the game from traditional data collection to leverage the power of data for transformative action:

- ◆ **Understand your data needs:** Select priorities for data generation based on users' needs. Moving from data collection and monitoring to action requires a clear understanding of what data is needed and how it should be communicated to bring about the needed policies, programmes, budgets, and legislations.
- ◆ **Improve communication:** SDG 16+ messages must be relatable with everyday language to help people understand what is at stake. Make it exciting and turn that excitement into collective action.
- ◆ **Leverage the media:** The media can play a key role in effectively 'translating' and communicating SDG data to the public – find your allies in the sector and educate them on the subject.
- ◆ **Focus on the quality of data:** Policy and programme makers, as well as report writers (including of VNRs and national reports) must adopt an inclusive approach towards data usage, focusing on the quality of the available data rather than on the source of data.
- ◆ **Challenge the HLPF:** Support the reform of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) towards a more inclusive, participatory, and accountable model, inspired by, for example, UN human rights monitoring mechanisms.
- ◆ **Use human rights bodies to increase SDG accountability:** They provide country-specific guidance and recommendations that are relevant for SDG implementation: [find the links](#), [use human rights data](#), and [report to human rights monitoring bodies](#).
- ◆ **Peer pressure:** Seek support from Member States with good practices (e.g., those using information from spotlight reports and enabling meaningful participation) to promote peer-pressure in global/regional forums.

SDG 16+ Monitoring Community: Recommendations for Collective Follow-Up Actions

Participants highlighted the importance of having a space for peer exchange and for showcasing SDG 16+ initiatives to boost coordinated action, improve synergies and increase awareness of the interlinkages with each other's work. To enable better coordination moving forward, participants demonstrated interest in finding the adequate channel to maintain a constructive dialogue with others in the SDG 16+ community. Based on their feedback and suggestions, the following are the highlighted opportunities for future collaboration.

As a starting point and immediate follow-up from the workshop, the Global Alliance and DIHR have:

Community of Practice	Facilitated the creation of a virtual Community of Practice on Monitoring and Reporting on SDG 16+: to continue and expand the discussions initiated during the workshop, the SDG 16+ community is hereby invited to come together on a virtual Community of Practice to follow up on the findings of the workshop and collaborate for SDG 16+ monitoring. Join the Copenhagen Community of Practice here.
Repository of SDG 16+ Initiatives	Compiled a Repository of SDG 16+ Initiatives from participants: to highlight available resources that can support countries on monitoring SDG 16+ at country level (see Repository).
Visualization of SDG16+ Monitoring Initiatives	Produced a map of SDG 16+ data and monitoring initiatives: a compilation of data availability and initiatives measuring peace, justice, and inclusion in the 2030 Agenda (see Visualization of SDG16+ Monitoring Initiatives).

With these and other resources available, and using the virtual Community of Practice, the SDG 16+ community can identify priorities and strategize to improve key areas of concern as proposed by the workshop participants, including to:

- ◆ Bring key messages from the workshop to regional and international events such as the HLPF, Partners for Review meetings and the regional forums on sustainable development including through learning labs, side events, training-learning events, speaking engagements, etc.;
- ◆ Explore how to strengthen engagement and accountability of the private sector vis-à-vis SDG 16+;
- ◆ Foster partnerships between NSOs and NIHRs for SDG 16+ monitoring and showcase good practices at the World Data Forum and other relevant forums;
- ◆ Conduct a data gap analysis and identify priority areas for additional measurement and initiatives;
- ◆ Undertake a review of alternative data sources available for SDG 16+, communicate them effectively and foster partnerships to close data gaps (building on inventory emerging from this workshop);
- ◆ Strengthen networks of SDG 16+ monitoring initiatives and leverage them to collectively push for action.

Key Resources:

- ◆ [Full Workshop Report](#)
- ◆ [Workshop Agenda](#)
- ◆ [Workshop Concept Note](#)
- ◆ [Workshop List of Participants](#)
- ◆ [Repository of SDG16+ Initiatives](#)
- ◆ [Visualization of SDG16+ Data and Monitoring Initiatives](#)