



## PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

### Info Digest – Edition 14

October 2020

### Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the SDG 16 Info Digest!

This edition of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) Info Digest brings information on COVID-19 and SDG 16. The feature article is on the newly launched Praia City Group Guidance Note on “Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era”. Other updates include the SDG 16 work taking place against the backdrop of the pandemic, such as in Vietnam and the Latin American and Caribbean region. Here you will also find information on a number of new projects and initiatives, recent and upcoming events, as well as new tools and resources on SDG 16.



*The Info digest provides updates on SDG 16 related events and activities, within the UN System and outside. It also brings information about resources such as publications, articles, blogs, tools, platforms, and upcoming events. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information or resource that you would like to see featured in future editions of this digest with **Aseem Andrews** at [aseem.andrews@undp.org](mailto:aseem.andrews@undp.org).*

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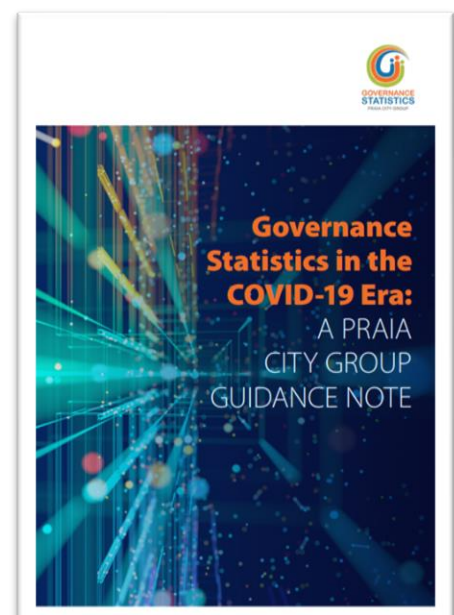
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### HIGHLIGHT

#### Launch of the Praia City Group Guidance Note on ‘Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era’

This new knowledge product was recently released and is globally the first guidance on governance statistics during COVID-19. It can also serve as an executive summary of the Praia City Group's [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#), which focuses on eight dimensions of governance. The Guidance Note offers practical measurement advice and recommended indicators to *data producers*, as well as helps *data users* such as policymakers, civil society or media to explore what governance data is needed and how to demand it. As the guidance considers the operational constraints faced by these actors – such as their reduced mobility for data collection and declining funding for statistics – it is also applicable to other multidimensional crises that may arise in the future.



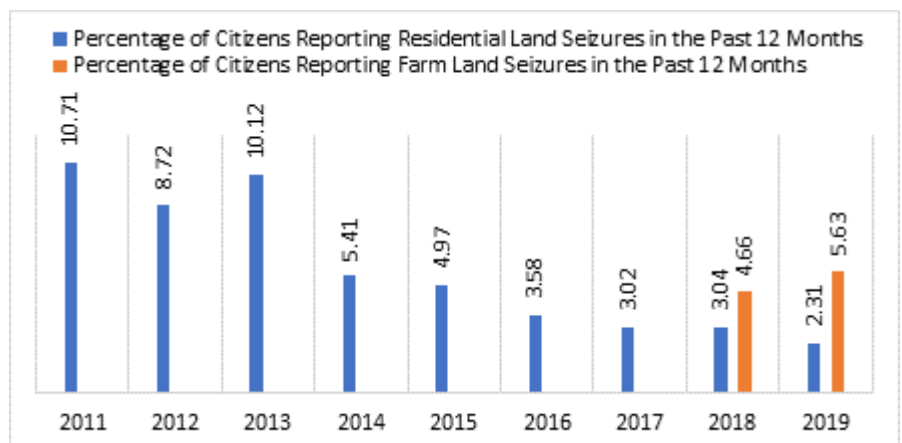
## RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### 2020 PAPI Fieldwork Underway in “New Normal” Conditions in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic



The current COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the way we work. However, despite the ongoing second wave of the pandemic, especially in central provinces of Da Nang and Quang Nam, in Vietnam, data collection for the 2020 Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) – a UNDP Viet Nam’s flagship research and advocacy project that collect citizens’ feedback about local governments’ performance in governance and public service delivery since 2009 – has been rolled out with some precautions. With this approach, as of 15 September, face-to-face interviews with more than 7,000 randomly selected respondents were conducted in 35 provinces. To prevent the pandemic from possibly spreading through direct contacts, PAPI field teams and respondents are equipped with facemasks and hand sanitizers; enumerators are additionally provided with face shields; and fieldwork is conducted in COVID-19-free zones upon prior consultation with and consent from local contact points. It may be noted that PAPI is also proving to be a monitoring tool that supports [gauging the implementation and progress in several SDG16 targets](#) in Viet Nam.

Findings from [PAPI](#) show that Vietnamese households using residential and farming land seem to be more prone to land confiscation than firms. Although the proportion of households losing residential land was decreasing toward 2019, the proportion reporting that they lost farming land was on the verge of increasing (the PAPI research started collecting data about citizens’ experiences with farmland seizures in 2018). When asked about compensation through the PAPI surveys over the past 11 years, inadequate compensation has been the key indicator that has lowered provincial scores for the land transparency sub-index. Read more [here](#).



### Released: UNDP ROLHR Global Programme 2029 Annual Report

*Rule of law, security, and human rights institutions are key to sustaining cohesive societies, now more than ever. To know more about UNDP’s work on the rule of law and human rights, read the recently published [2019 Annual Report for the Global Programme](#) which details UNDP’s contributions to strengthen the rule of law and human rights in crisis-affected contexts and progress achieved with its partners at the global, regional, and country/territory levels.*

UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development seeks to underpin broader UN efforts in achieving lasting peace and sustainable development. The Global Programme seeks to contribute to establishing a culture of respect for the rule of law and embedding human rights principles in UNDP's work to build integrated and sustainable solutions for the people and the planet. As the Decade of Action for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals commenced, the need to create peaceful, just, and inclusive societies has never been more crucial. Through the Global Programme, which provided financial assistance to more than 40 crisis-affected contexts in 2019 and technical support to many more, UNDP strives to guarantee international human rights norms and the rule of law as a cornerstone of international development. The Global Programme underwrites the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law (co-led by UNDP and the UN Department of Peace Operations) as well as a number of catalytic partnerships with UN Women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others.

## Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to advance more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Preparations are underway for the launch and dissemination of the joint UNDP/Global Alliance & TAP Network report *"Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to advance more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies"*. The report, which will feature on the SDG 16 Hub, is expected to be launched in November 2020 in a global webinar. A series of thematic webinars will follow in end-2020 and early 2021. In addition, the SDG 16+ Community Joint Statement ["Act Now for SDG 16+ - Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions in a Pandemic"](#) will be launched during the UN75 Commemoration. More than 80 entities have signed on to date (including CSPPS, TAP Network, Saferworld, 16+ Forum, WFUNA, Pathfinders, UN Women, UN Global Compact and the Global Alliance) and it can be accessed on the SDG 16 Hub [here](#).

## World Bank Fragility Forum: Investing in Justice for All to Prevent Conflict & Violence

On August 25, the Pathfinders, in partnership with the g7+ hosted a lively discussion on "Investing in Justice for All to Prevent Conflict & Violence" at the 2020 Virtual World Bank Fragility Forum. Participants discussed challenges to access



justice in the pandemic and the issue's important connection to preventing conflict and violence. The high-level event was moderated by Liv Tørres, Director, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and speakers included H.E. Musa F. Dean, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Liberia; H.E. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, MFA; and Mr. Ferid Belhaj, VP MENA Region, World Bank Group. The full event can be watched [here](#).

## Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on the Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda by UN Peace Operations

On 9 September, the Security Council met to discuss UNSC resolution 2250, 2419 and 2535 on youth, peace and security and the implementation by UN peace operations. Representatives from the UN and young peacebuilders shared their experience with youth-inclusive peacebuilding efforts at the Arria-Formula meeting. Lessons learned included the importance of partnerships with young people and youth networks, investing in youth-led peacebuilding, mechanisms for youth engagement in UN missions, dedicated capacities on youth, peace and security, roadmaps, and support from leadership, among others.



## SDG16 in Latin American and Caribbean:

**High Level consultations: The future of Governance and Peace:** UNDP Latin America and the Caribbean [launched a series of high-level consultations](#) with a variety of actors in the region to discuss how to face the COVID-19 crisis. *"The crisis generated by COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean is not only a health and socioeconomic crisis but also a crisis of governance"* has been the main message of Regional Director Luis Felipe together with the Secretary-General of Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB) Rebeca Grynspan in their [editorial in El País](#), where they recognize that *"Governance is the creation of conditions for social advancement through agreements between various social actors and where the Government, in its exercise of delegated authority, must enjoy legitimacy and deliver results for all"*. The topics of discussion include the capacities of the state and the fight against corruption, justice, social equity, and the fiscal reforms necessary to build a new, more peaceful, and inclusive normality in Latin America and the Caribbean. The final aim is to seek, together, the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) included in the 2030 Agenda, focusing on SDG 16 as an accelerator for achieved results. This process necessarily implies the search for political and social agreements that could guarantee peace and social cohesion. The magnitude of the governance crisis requires the recognition that an unprecedented crisis requires innovative solutions to ensure that no one is left behind.



**Peru's #MascarillaVioleta:** To support victims of gender based violence, the UNDP launched the [campaign #VioletMask](#), a symbol that raises awareness and unites everyone in the fight against this "other pandemic", the violence that many women are experiencing today locked up with their aggressors. As part of this campaign, a limited edition of 3,000 violet masks are being sold, whose proceeds support the "Casa de la Mujer" shelters of the Municipality of Lima, spaces created to provide safe shelter, food and comprehensive care for women victims of violence and their children. These two shelters were inaugurated during the COVID-19 emergency, and each has the capacity to accommodate around 20 women, and in some cases their children, whose homes have ceased to be safe due to the various forms of violence they suffer. In "Casa de la Mujer", women receive psychological, legal and social counselling and empowerment workshops, as well as comprehensive health, food and security care.



**Central America "No society will be safe until the women are safe":** A preview of the campaign #SafeWomen, which carries as its main message "No society will be safe until the women are safe", was presented during UNDP Infosegura's Data Action Webinar. The campaign is carried out in coordination with UNDP's gender cluster for Latin America and the Caribbean, and was presented together with citizen security data on the subject and a video summarizing the national actions that the Dominican Republic, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala will carry out within the framework of this initiative. This campaign will last for three months and will happen mainly on UNDP and its institutional counterparts' digital media and social networks, where videographic pieces and messages from the campaign's "ambassadors" will be disseminated. In addition, the campaign will share educative information on the prevention of violence and information on complaint mechanisms for each country for people who suffer violence within the family, family members and the social circle of trust.

**Colombia: Supporting innovation on Human Rights National Institutions:** UNDP is working with the Ministry of the Interior as the technical secretariat for the CIPRAT (Interinstitutional Commission for the Rapid Response to Early Warnings). The Defensoría del Pueblo (NHRI) and CIPRAT are functional counterparts in the framework of Colombia's Peace Agreement. The Defensoría has the mandate to promptly warn about the risks of violations of the rights to life, integrity, liberty and personal security and violations of international humanitarian law. The functions of CIPRAT are to

coordinate and promote preventive measures and rapid reaction to the risk factors warned by the Defensoría, so that the competent entities and authorities urgently adopt the necessary and pertinent measures to prevent and ward off risks and threats. With the regional project [UNDP-SIGOB](#) as a technical partner, UNDP has developed a management system and digital tool for handling early warnings and coordinating actions among about 261 entities of the national, sub-national and local governments. Work started in August 2020 and has been done completely under COVID-19 conditions. This initiative is another example of how UNDP supports transformation of national institutions with innovative digital tools that contribute to human rights and sustainable human development.



**Global Justice Leaders Spotlight Legal Aid to Tackle Discrimination, Inequality Amidst Pandemic:** Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers of the [4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#) held a special virtual convening from 14-18 September. Stressing the continued importance of implementing the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, as well as striving towards achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development with its objective to “leave no one behind” and achieve equal access to justice for all, the event provided a forum for legal aid providers and justice stakeholders from around the world to exchange knowledge, practical strategies and expertise on how to address the urgent justice challenges arising from COVID-19. In recognition of the unprecedented impact of the pandemic on criminal justice systems and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities, over 800 people from more than 75 countries joined this special virtual convening. Participants included legal aid providers and experts from public defender and legal aid offices, bar associations, civil society organizations and international organizations, and other justice and government stakeholders.

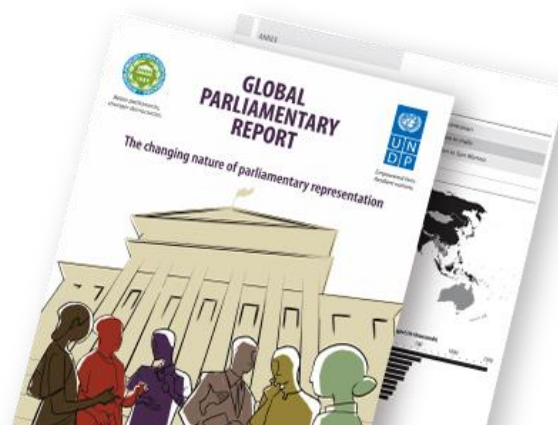
**Belize’s courses Importance of the Gender Perspective to Information Management:** With the support of InfoSEGURA, the Belize Crime Observatory continues to facilitate an online course on the Importance of the Gender Perspective to Information Management. The first live webinar discussion was convened on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The participants discussed some of the existing weaknesses in information management with respect to gender-based violence, particularly with respect to intra-family violence, intimate partner violence and gender-based violence perpetrated in the context of the gang sub-culture. Course participants were provided with guidelines for joint work, to be submitted by 28 September. More information at [InfoSEGURA](#).



## **Contribute!**

### **Call for Contributions from civil society to the Global Parliamentary Report on Public Engagement**

Systematic, meaningful and inclusive opportunities for public participation can strengthen the legitimacy of governance institutions and facilitate the adoption of decisions that address the needs and rights of all people. The 2021 Global Parliamentary Report (GPR) will focus on how parliaments engage with the public. UNPD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in partnership with CIVICUS, are collecting experiences of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in engaging with



parliaments. The purpose is to draw out good practices and gather evidence to strengthen engagement between parliaments and civil society. Has your organization engaged with parliament? If so, we would like to hear from you! How has your organization been involved with parliament? What were the positive aspects and challenges you encountered, and what were the lessons you learned? What are your suggestions for how to strengthen relations between parliament and CSOs? We invite you to send your contributions, thoughts and questions to [gpr@ipu.org](mailto:gpr@ipu.org).



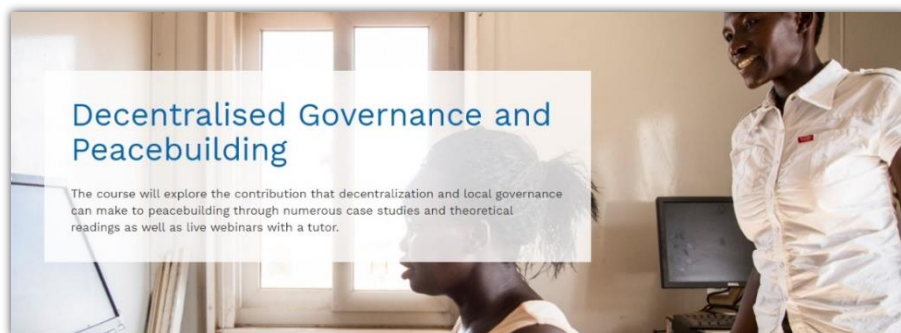
### Living Compendium and Emerging practices for SDG 16 data – [seeking examples!](#)

The process for developing an online living compendium on emerging practices for producing, analysing, using and/or disseminating SDG 16 Data is proceeding. Several useful and interesting practices and experiences have been shared by SDG 16 practitioners worldwide that are key to inform the further development of the compendium, whose ultimate aim is to provide inspiration and

practical guidance to a wide audience looking for new ways of measuring progress on Goal 16. Some of the many interesting practices already received concern the use of social media platforms and the use of artificial intelligence to measure inclusive and responsive decision-making; the testing of new survey-based data methods for measuring SDG 16 survey-based indicators; the introduction of data-driven assessments on certain technologies for supporting the achievement of the SDG agenda by private businesses; and a process to establish digital tools to enable Realtime data collection. We are keen to get even more suggestions of emerging SDG 16 data practices and would appreciate you sharing your experiences on our [online questionnaire](#). For any questions or comments, please write to: [ulrika.jonsson@undp.org](mailto:ulrika.jonsson@undp.org) and/or [aseem.andrews@undp.org](mailto:aseem.andrews@undp.org)

## Happening Now: 15th edition of the online course on "Decentralised Governance and Peacebuilding" (5<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October)

This edition of the online course started on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October and will end on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Decentralisation concepts and legal framework, fiscal decentralisation, participatory budgeting, sequencing of decentralisation processes and their impact on peace and conflict dynamics in post-conflict and volatile



contexts – these are some of the important topics that are being covered in the eight modules of the online course. The tutored programme will explore the contribution that decentralisation can make to peacebuilding and will identify the key elements of local governance that are especially relevant in a post-conflict/peacebuilding context. Case studies from different regions will be used to illustrate successful decentralisation reforms and peacebuilding efforts at the local level. The online course on "Decentralised Governance and Peacebuilding" features four tutored webinars during which the participants will be able to interact with each other and with the tutor in a virtual classroom:

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** "Welcome webinar" during which the training team will explain the course objectives, how to navigate the modules and use "zoom" to benefit the most from the weekly webinars.
- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** the tutor will discuss the contribution that local governance can make to sustaining peace, followed by a Q&A with regard to the content of the first two modules of the course, namely "Decentralised Governance - Key Concepts" and "Effective Decentralisation for Peacebuilding". The webinar will begin at 02:00 p.m. Rome time and lasts for one hour.



- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October:** the tutor will reflect on the use of participatory budgeting, followed by a Q&A, addressing module 3 and 4 of the course, namely "The Politics of Decentralised Governance" and "Fiscal Decentralisation and Accountability". The webinar will begin at 02:00 p.m. Rome time and lasts for one hour.
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October:** during this webinar, the tutor will analyse how to foster the participation of women in local governance in order to contribute to the implementation of SDG 5. (*Alternatively: the tutor will analyse the case of decentralisation in post-conflict Rwanda.*) Afterwards, the tutor will respond to participants' questions and further clarify concepts with regard to modules 5 and 6 of the course, namely "Violence, Security and Peacebuilding in a Decentralised Framework" and "Role of Decentralisation in Improving Local Economies and the Delivery of Basic Services". The webinar will begin at 02:00 p.m. Rome time and lasts for about one hour and a half.
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October:** The tutor will reflect on the role of decentralised governance for citizen participation in Makueni County (Kenya). The tutor will respond to participants' questions and further clarify concepts with regard to module 7 of the course, namely "Decentralisation: Case Studies". To support the participants to successfully complete the final assignment on the "Aquidaban" case study, questions related to the case will be addressed. The webinar will begin at 02:00 p.m. Rome time and lasts for about one hour and a half.

Prof. Andrew Nickson, honorary Reader in Public Management and Latin American Studies at the University of Birmingham (UK), will be the tutor of the programme. In order to know more about this course and how to enrol, please click [here](#).

## Happening Now: Towards the 3rd Edition of the World Forum



The "Cities and Territories of Peace" Forum is a longstanding process. It started in 2017 with its first two editions held in Madrid, towards stakeholder dialogue aimed at identifying solutions at political and programmatic levels for building coexistence and peace in cities and territories. COVID-19 has forced the Organizing Committee to rethink its format and action plan, and, whereas the organization of an in-person forum is still foreseen for April 2021 in Mexico City, it was decided that a preparatory virtual event will be held from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The opening session is chaired jointly by the Mayors of Mexico City, Bogota and Barcelona. You can register to the sessions in the [Ciudades de Paz website](#) by clicking in the corresponding plenary/ies or watch the events streamed on the [Ciudades de Paz Youtube channel](#). The events will be held in Mexico City time and will have simultaneous translation. For the full programme, access [ciudadesdepaz.com](https://ciudadesdepaz.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### European Week of Regions and Cities: Territorial cohesion in the time of COVID19 (13<sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-11:00 am (CET), via Zoom)

Session organized by UNDP in the framework of the [European Week of Regions and Cities 2020](#). The main goal of the workshop is to promote a constructive exchange among actors operating at different levels of government across Europe on the value of policies and initiatives that embrace an inclusive territorial approach by building on multi-level

partnerships, territorial cohesion and cooperation. Considering the COVID-19 crisis scenario, sharing lessons learned and inspiring new initiatives while promoting dialogue will be the final objectives of the session. To register you need first to sign in with your [EU Login](#) or [create an account](#) and then to complete your personal profile. Please notice that the session will be fully digital with remote participation and provided in English. As only a limited number of participants will be allowed, we encourage all participants to register ahead of the session by clicking [here](#).

## UN World Data Forum 2020 (19-21 October)

The registration for the upcoming UN World Data Forum 2020 is now open, and it can be done via [this link](#). The live stream programme structure and session titles for the virtual Forum can be found [here](#). The Data Forums are an opportunity for data and statistics experts from around the world to join together with governments, businesses, civil society and the scientific and academic communities to explore innovative ways to apply data and statistics to measure global progress and inform evidence-based policy decisions on the 2030 Agenda. This contributes to important discussions, data labs and interactive platforms aimed at improving the use of data for sustainable development; and launch new initiatives and solutions that will deliver better data for all.

## RESOURCES

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### Reports/Researches/Briefings

**[Republic of Korea and COVID-19: Gleaning governance lessons from a unique approach](#):** In this report, Stephan Klingebiel, Director of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, and Liv Tørres, director of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, discuss how state capacity, trust, and leadership helped the Republic of Korea handle both the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its spillover effects, in an exemplary manner, while at the same time improving its soft power.

**[Innovation in the face of crisis - Insights from European cities](#):** This Center for Public Impact's reports shares different creative and fast approaches adopted by European Cities in the frontline of the COVID-19 response. Based on inclusiveness, cooperation and public participation, some of these cities have served as examples for further initiatives.

**[COVID-19 and Stabilisation: Governance Implications for the Lake Chad Basin Region](#):** This UNDP's situational brief explores how COVID-19 could impact governance issues, especially human rights, democratic accountability and transparency, service delivery, and market interface in the Lake Chad Basin region, and the implications of this on the stabilisation agenda.

**[OPSI: Government After Shock - Interviews](#) & [OPSI: Embracing Innovation in Government - Global Trends 2020](#):**

OECD's Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI) is launching a series of reports focused on innovative trends in the public sector. The first report deals with innovative government responses to COVID-19, and the second on seamless government, focusing on the elimination of points of friction between the government and those they serve. They are also launching interviews with leaders and practitioners of the public sector, where they share their experiences in dealing with the pandemic.



### Tools:

**[SDGs & Human Rights Toolbox](#):** The SDGs & Human Rights Toolbox is a resources library of training materials, reports and databases, launched with the goal to enhance National Human Rights Institutions' capacity and contribute to the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs.





**The Fund for Global Human Rights:** The Fund for Global Human Rights is a public foundation which provides financial and strategic support to grassroots organizations, mentors activists, connects grantees, fosters the organisations' sustainability in order to promote stronger, more inclusive, diverse and resilient human rights groups.

## Blogs & Op-Eds

✍ **Young Iraqis, the key to sustainable Peace**, by UNDP Arab States, discusses how a partnership between UNDP and Iraqi Al-Amal Association is helping enable universities to advance capacity for Peace Education, in a country confronted by continuous crises, from the continued activity of ISIL, through social inequality to, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

✍ **Youth are not the future – they are here now**, by Susanna Dakash, UNDP Istanbul. This article highlights the challenges faced by young people during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of policies aimed at responding to their grievances, and the importance of hearing their voices now in order to build their future.

✍ **The Statement delivered by Haoliang Xu on the occasion of the second anniversary of the launch of Youth 2030 Strategy and briefing to UN Member States**, stressed UNDP's commitment to the United Nations Youth2030 Strategy, by emphasising its role in initiatives such as '16x16 initiative', the global coalition on youth, peace and security, and its collaborative role with UNICEF, ILO, and other organizations committed to youth's empowerment.



✍ **16 x 16 blog: the contribution of art in peacebuilding:** In [the 16 x 16 blog](#), Karim Habib (Educuality) describes the contribution of art in peacebuilding in Egypt. He argues that civil society organizations provide needed specialized curricular on peace through creative approaches, and that this can support youth meaningful engagement for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The [blog series](#) is a part of [UNDP's youth global 16 x 16 Initiative](#).

✍ **The future we want, the UN we need**, by Charles Chauvel and Agata Walczak, discusses the opportunity faced by national parliaments to reassert their role as SDG 16 institutions on the pathway to recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The article looks at the importance of parliamentary efforts to reinvigorate global partnerships for voice, accountability, inclusion, and resilience.

✍ **UN75 Declaration Calls for Multilateralism to Achieve Equal, Resilient World**: This IISD article summarizes the declaration from Heads of State and Ministries and their goals to "leave no one behind, protect the planet, promote peace, abide by international law, place women and girls at the centre, build trust, improve digital cooperation, upgrade the UN, ensure sustainable financing, boost partnerships, listen to and work with youth, and be prepared."

✍ **The World Spoke, and It's Time to Step Up Action**, by Fabrizio Hochschild, discusses the inputs gathered so far in the year-long conversation on people's expectations and priorities regarding their future and the future of organizations such as the UN. He notes the concerns over the COVID-19 and environmental crisis, as well as the need for international cooperation.

✍ **A different way of celebrating Democracy Day**, by Isabel Saint Malo. Isabel, from UNDP Latin America and the Caribbean, discusses in this article the need to reinvigorate support for democracy in Latin America, in a context of a triple crisis in governance, health and economy, and the need for a new social pact towards achieving the 2030 agenda.


### [Harnessing Governance](#)

#### [Statistics in the Fight Against COVID-19](#)

by Osvaldo Borges and Malin Herwig. In this article, which presents Praia City Group's Guidance Note on 'Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era', the authors raise awareness for

the erosion of governance caused by the COVID-19 crisis, and how this increases the importance of data beyond the health and socio-economic spheres, but also on the quality of governance.



 [What the battle against COVID-19 means for democratic governance progress in Libya](#), by Gerardo Noto. Gerardo highlights the negative impact of emergency measures in rights associated with democracy, such as freedom of information, association and expression, and the need to rethink politics in the COVID-19 context in order to restore confidence in democracy.

### [Taiwan's unlikely path to public trust provides lessons for the US](#)

by Rorry Daniels. Rorry emphasizes the excellence with which Taiwan responded to the COVID-19 crisis, both in regards to public health, economic and socio-political aspects, and how this response was only possible due to a years-long process involving innovative measures to address disinformation, transparent decision-making at all levels of government, fostering a trust in the government which turned out to be essential to handling the pandemic.



### [The Bangladeshi judge who protected people in the justice system from COVID-19](#)

Pathfinders' interview with Justice Imman Ali illustrate how Bangladesh responded to the coronavirus crisis's negative effect on the justice and incarceration systems by implementing virtual courts and electronic bill applications, releasing adults from pre-trial detention and children from custody.

### [Order From Chaos: Counterterrorism in a time of COVID](#)

In this article, Daniel L. Byman discusses the changes in terrorism and counterterrorism, from the budget migration towards health, movement restriction intensifying the localization of terrorism, and increase pressure over local government response.



### [UNDP joins local radio shows to bring COVID-19 advice to the airwaves](#)

UNDP Somalia has partnered with local radio stations and public health, medicine and religion experts to raise awareness about COVID-19, how it spreads and how to prevent the disease.