

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 16
December 2020

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the SDG 16 Info Digest!

This year end edition of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) Info Digest brings information on the latest developments on SDG 16 related work, including those that have a COVID-19 focus. Among others, in this edition are the updates on the recently concluded 19th IACC and upcoming Anti-Corruption day 2020. The updates also include the SDG 16 work taking place at the regional and county level. 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.



SDG 16
hub

*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 and platforms. 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.*

INDEX

-  [Highlight: 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference](#)
-  [In the Spotlight](#)
-  [Recent Activities and Events](#)
-  [Upcoming Events](#)
-  [Resources](#)

HIGHLIGHT

19th International Anti-Corruption Conference, 30 November – 5 December 2020



INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE

Under the theme **Designing 2030: Truth, Trust & Transparency**, over 500 speakers and thousands of participants attended more than 120 virtual workshops over 6 days to ensure that the fight against corruption is at the centre of all development efforts, particularly in the post pandemic world. Participants heard from experts on their experiences to prevent and address corruption across sectors and thematic areas, the challenges they are encountering and how all the work in this area will shape the future. The event also connected with several filmmakers, activists and journalists who lead innovative and effective advocacy and action against corruption.

It was hosted by the IACC Council, Transparency International and the Government of Republic of Korea, represented by the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) and co-organized by UNDP, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and the US Department of State. More information can be accessed at the website of the [19th International Anti-Corruption Conference \(IACC\)](#).

UNDP at the 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)



Mr. Mourad Wahba, Associate Administrator (a.i.) of UNDP, presented his keynote speech at the Closing Plenary on the 4th December. He highlighted the need for an integrated and collective approach to ensure anti-corruption is part of all development efforts to build forward better, as well as the incredible potential of **new technologies for integrity, trust and anti-corruption** to accelerate the achievement of the

SDGs. Read his full speech [here](#).

During the 19th IACC, UNDP organised **8 workshops** with partners including Norad, Sida, BMZ, UNODC, WHO, OECD, African Union, Transparency International, and others. The workshops discussed the **next generation of anti-corruption priorities**, as we look towards 2030, including leveraging technology and innovation, business integrity, collective action (incl. engaging civil society and empowering women and youth), and integrating anti-corruption in all socio-economic recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.



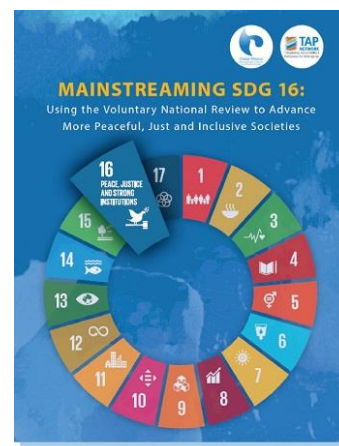
Upcoming: International Anti-Corruption Day 2020 (9 Dec) – [UN Global Campaign](#)



Since 2009, UNODC and UNDP have jointly implemented the UN's global campaign to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day (9 Dec). This year, the UN global campaign focuses on the theme "[Recover with Integrity](#)". This year's global campaign focuses on COVID-19 recovery through mitigating corruption and enhancing accountability in the public health sector and emergency/economic responses to COVID-19, as well as in the private sector. Gender equality is also a focus in this year's campaign. The campaign further reflects messaging from the [Secretary-General's statement on corruption in the context of COVID-19](#) (15 October 2020). The dedicated website www.anticorruptionday.org serves as a one-stop-shop for all campaign material and content around International Anti-Corruption Day. The social media package is available on [trello](#). UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner will be releasing a statement on 9 December 2020 in commemoration of International Anti-Corruption Day, which will be available both on the UNDP website and the [Anti-Corruption Day website](#). **#UnitedAgainstCorruption #RecoverBetter #IACD2020**

Launch of Resource Guide ‘Mainstreaming SDG16: Using the VNRs to Advance More Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies’

On Monday, 14 December 2020 from 8:30 – 10:00 EST (13:30 – 15:00 GMT), the [Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) and the [Transparency, Accountability, and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) will host a webinar to officially launch the Resource Guide “*Mainstreaming SDG16: Using the VNRs to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*.” This global [Launch Webinar](#) will guide participants through the content of the Resource and will feature insights and reflections from experts and practitioners on reporting and follow-up of SDG16 at all levels. These reflections will be followed by an interactive session where participants can share their own experiences and lessons learned in mainstreaming SDG16 in their own contexts, or to ask any questions that they might have about the resource. Interested participants are kindly asked to pre-register for this event by **Friday, 11 December 2020** at <https://bit.ly/mainstreamingsdg16launch>



RECENT ACTIVITIES, INITIATIVES AND EVENTS

Launch of digital solutions to public services: A case of ‘need to have’ in COVID-19 in Georgia



With funding from the UK Government, UNDP supported the Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia to launch an innovative electronic service – **e-Apostille** allowing Georgian and foreign citizens to verify up to 100 types of documents issued by Georgia’s public authorities and health and educational institutions. The e-Apostille can certify birth and marriage certificates, diplomas, health-related papers, court orders and other documents for use abroad thereby simplifying the process of obtaining this important service in a safe online environment during the COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

The e-Apostille was integrated into the national system of e-services. Applications are now accessible on the [PSDA website](#), and the [unified Government portal](#), and verification is available on the [PSDA-run website](#). By launching this innovative electronic service, Georgia has become the 19th country out of 119 members of the [Hague Convention](#) to roll out an e-Apostille programme. With UNDP support, the PSDA studied international experience in the electronic verification of public documents and developed an e-Apostille service in compliance with technical requirements. Working under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, the PSDA is one of the national partners engaged in UNDP’s [programme](#) to support Public Administration Reform in Georgia, implemented in partnership with the UK Government.

Private – sector partnership to advance SDG16 and Agenda 2030: White & Case



The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies private sector partner, White & Case has reviewed the 45 VNRs submitted and publicly published in 2020. For the 4th year they have analyzed whether the countries reported on the SDG 16+ Targets; the extent of the reporting on these targets; whether the report indicated that it was a product of an inclusive, participatory process; whether the report noted that the private sector was involved in implementation and reporting, and whether sources of data were provided. For member states who submitted prior VNRs, White & Case compared the member states’ SDG16+ reporting in 2020 to its prior submission(s). This year, the White &

Case review also assessed whether the VNR: contained a specific section or chapter on SDG16; relied on Human Rights

reports or engaged Human Rights institutions or data; discussed COVID-19's impact on SDG16 reporting or implementation; mentioned negative trends or challenges in implementing or collecting SDG16 data; and provided next steps post-VNR submissions with respect to SDG16 and the 2030 Agenda." Please find the White & Case's analysis as well as the reporting of the results as compared with the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 VNRs [here](#).

Consultation on SDG 16.3.3 on access to dispute resolution mechanisms with National Statistics Offices

More than 30 participants attended a virtual discussion on strategies to collect and use justice data in the COVID-19 era. This discussion brought together a small group of NSOs and support organizations to reflect on lessons from efforts to strengthen the availability and use of civil justice data. Jointly hosted by The Pathfinders, the World Justice Project, the Open Society Justice Initiative and the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, the session provided an opportunity to share examples of how national statistical offices are collaborating with country stakeholders to strengthen the collection and use of civil justice data as well as methodological challenges. In the months ahead the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, World Justice Project, and the Open Society Justice Initiative will continue conversations to identify strategies to strengthen the collection and use of civil justice data in the COVID-19 era. UNDP, UNODC and OECD as custodians of the 16.3.3 indicator will continue to develop and refine the methodology for measuring SDG 16.3.3 including through the SDG 16 Survey Initiative.

Training workshop on SDG Metadata and SDMX Template: Exercise on SDG Indicator 16.7.1 on Inclusive Decision Making, Bangladesh, 01-02 November 2020



The 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh' (SC4SDG) Project of UNDP Bangladesh and UNEP-PEA in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNICEF Bangladesh organized a 2-day long training workshop on "SDG Metadata and SDMX Template: Exercise on SDG Indicator 16.7.1 - "Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including the legislatures; the public service; and the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups". The training brought together different line ministries/divisions/institutions to enhance participants' knowledge of the main concepts and methodology for generating data for SDG indicator 16.7.1 and capacitate participants to initiate data collection and reporting of the indicator. The training also facilitated hands-on sessions on the interpretation of the indicator, compilation of administrative data from government organizations, and developing SDMX for SDG indicator 16.7.1 to which UNDP Oslo Governance Centre contributed by providing a virtual session. For more information on the event please see [here](#).

Praia City Group 3rd Membership meeting, 11th November 2020

This meeting convened by the Praia Secretariat was supported by UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre. It was attended virtually by over 95 participants and had two main objectives: *Firstly*, to share knowledge and experiences around governance data collection efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and; the *second* objective of the meeting was to discuss possible options for the Praia Group's plan of work for its new term, which runs from 2020 until 2025. The meeting included a presentation on the Praia Group's [Guidance Note on Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 Era](#), which was published in September 2020, and which builds on recommendations contained in the [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#), also recently published by the Group. The meeting gave an opportunity to members to reflect on how the pandemic has impacted their work, what challenges they face in collecting governance data at this time and how their organisation has responded to the situation. Related to the second objective, there was discussion and feedback on the

outputs the group could deliver on to advance the field of governance statistics and support governance data producers in operationalising the recommendations contained in the '[Handbook on Governance Statistics](#)'. The Praia Group Secretariat presented various potential 'key deliverables' which it could focus on over the course of the next 4 to 5 years. A meeting report is currently being prepared with the plan of work to be endorsed by the Praia Group Steering Committee by the end of 2020. For more information please write to: [Aparna Basnyat](#) and [Marie Laberge](#).

UNODC-UNDP joint regional training on measuring SDG16 in Africa (ongoing).

Several countries in Africa have included SDG 16 in the national development framework, thus recognising the importance to address peace, justice and inclusion as part of sustainable development. However, monitoring and reporting progress on SDG 16 indicators, has been a challenge in the region and globally. Insufficient availability and quality of statistical information on SDG16 remains and directly hampers the capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda, as it prevents countries from generating evidence-based and effective policy responses to justice, security and governance challenges. The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights the value of measuring and monitoring: as no strategy can be developed, and no measure can be implemented without a proper monitoring and evaluation system. The 5-part training series (with a focus on in the areas of governance, crime, violence, trafficking, access to justice and the rule of law) commenced on 19th November and will continue until the 17th December (with a training session every week on Thursday).

The training workshops are helping familiarize relevant stakeholders with the concepts, international standards, methodological tools, as well as an understanding of the challenges needed to measure SDG indicators related to governance, preventing violence, strengthening criminal justice systems, prisons, access to justice, countering organized crime, illicit trafficking, and corruption. Key SDG16 methodological tools. At the end of the process it is hoped that it could lead to strengthened technical capacities of national authorities; as part of a better organisational framework which could promote a "data community" among data producers and users for the exchange of experiences and challenges. A vibrant community of practice has emerged with 100+ practitioners sharing experiences and best practices on the [SDG16 Hub](#).

Update from USPC: SDG Partnerships on Transparency & Accountability: New partner countries added



UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) for Knowledge Exchange through SDG Partnerships recently finalized the selection of its partner countries on Transparency & Accountability for 2021. After reviewing 27 proposals (Expressions of Interest) submitted by the Country Offices from Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe and the CIS, and Latin America and the Caribbean, Colombia and Algeria were chosen to kickstart the collaboration. SDG Partnerships shares Republic of Korea (RoK)'s tested-and-proven policy tools with the partner

countries utilizing UNDP's global network. It provides a combination of support, including partnership development with Korean institutions, seed funding, technical assistance, and policy advisory services. Algeria and Colombia aim to benchmark Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (annual monitoring and ranking mechanism of anti-corruption efforts by the public organizations) and Corruption Risk Assessment (corruption proofing of legislation based on the set of criteria and checklists) of Korea's Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission. For more information write to: [Gichung Lee](#).

Update from SEESAC: 4th Regional Coordination Meeting

On November 25-26, UNDP's SEESAC (South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons) organized the Fourth Regional Coordination Meeting of [the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024](#). The Roadmap is the most comprehensive arms control exercise in the region, covering all key aspects, from securing the stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, to mainstreaming gender in SALW control and countering firearms trafficking. It represents a firm commitment by the authorities to addressing the threats posed by the misuse and illicit possession of weapons in the Western Balkans and Europe. The achievement of the Roadmap

seven goals will significantly contribute to achievement of SDG Target 16.4 in relation to significantly reducing illicit arms flows and combatting all forms of organized crime. The meeting, which had a wide representation from authorities in the region, relevant international organizations and donors, aimed to review progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, discuss challenges and plans. Furthermore, it presented the key findings from the [4th Progress Reports](#) that authorities are submitting as per 14 Roadmap Key Performance Indicators and Roadmap Goals.

Women's Leadership for Peace Programme



With the support of [UNITAR's Strategic Framework Fund](#), [UNITAR's Division for Peace](#) and [Division for Multilateral Diplomacy](#) have recently launched a new [Women's Leadership for Peace](#) programme, recognising the importance of women's meaningful participation in leadership roles and in the promotion of lasting peace. The Programme supports the [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#) and the subsequent Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, targeting mid-career, emerging female leaders working in the Peace and Security architecture. At the heart of the Women's Leadership for Peace programme is the vision to facilitate and drive an increase in the

representation of women in leadership positions within the wider Peace and Security field, including in UN negotiation and decision making fora, within the context of regional organisations, international networks as well as activities led at national and local levels.

The Programme aims to achieve this ambitious objective through targeted training and capacity building delivered in partnership with leading UN organisations such as the [UN Women Training Centre](#), the UN System more broadly, as well as relevant regional partners and stakeholders, including from academia, civil society, international organisations, national institutions and the private sector. UNITAR is currently seeking partners, donors and Champions in the field of Women's Leadership for Peace to support the development of effective partnerships and strengthening of networks, to ensure the Programme effectively reaches targeted participants in all contexts. Please submit suggestions [here](#). For more information, please visit [dedicated website page](#) or contact sheleads4peace@unitar.org.

Stabilization Facility for Libya- Stronger for Libya, SFL2

The project Stabilization Facility for Libya supports Libyan efforts to successfully complete the critical period of transition from the initial humanitarian relief towards mid- and long-term structural and sector-specific support and to strengthen national unity and reinforce state authorities for all Libyans.

[UNDP](#) and UNITAR are currently delivering the Output 3 activities of the project that focus on Local Peace Structures and Conflict Management Capacity. These activities aim to support the local peace structures through enhancing capabilities of 32 civil society organisations' (CSOs) in conflict analysis, conflict mapping, conflict monitoring, conflict management, and conflict reduction. Measures to build and develop capacities of the local CSO partners include 8 tailored training workshops as well as mentoring and coaching activities - all delivered throughout the implementation of Output 3. To ensure that the programme meets participants' real needs, the definition of key content and methodologies of the 8 thematic training workshops was carried out in a participatory manner during the set-up phase. The first five-day training workshop on Conflict Analysis and Stakeholder Mapping was successfully implemented in October 2020. In order to reinforce the learning process, mentoring and coaching are provided in parallel with the core training workshops.



Call to Action: World Justice Challenge 2021: Advancing the Rule of Law in a Time of Crisis

[World Justice Challenge 2021: Advancing the Rule of Law in a Time of Crisis](#). Applications are due **December 11**.



The World Justice Challenge 2021 is a global competition to identify, recognize and promote good practices and high-impact projects and policies that protect and advance areas of the rule of law most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Challenge invites submissions featuring solutions that address four aspects of the rule of law directly affected by the pandemic: Access to Justice for All; Accountable Governance; Anti-Corruption and Open Government; and Fundamental Rights and

Non-Discrimination. We encourage all UNDP Country Offices and partners who currently work towards innovative approaches to address challenges generated by COVID-19 pandemic to submit applications as this would be a good opportunity to showcase good-practices and inspire future initiatives. To submit projects or if you have any questions about the competition please write to [Lara Deramaix](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Blue Justice Conference 2020



This Conference will gather world leaders to foster cooperation towards a fair blue economy free from fisheries crime. Following the High-Level opening event on December 10, a range of expert webinars will follow. These will highlight different topics related to addressing fisheries crime targeting government representatives, academia and civil society. First up is the webinar “Key governance and associated gender challenges to tackling organized

crime in the fisheries sector”, scheduled for December 10 at 15:00CET - 16:30CET. The UNDP Blue Resilience project research team will here share their key research findings on how governance and gender issues impact the effective tackling of fisheries crime. A particular focus will be on institutional cooperation, including different cooperation models that the research has identified. The webinar speakers will include Julia Kercher Senior Expert SDG 16 and UNDP Blue Resilience Lead Governance Researcher UNDP Oslo Governance Centre; and Medina Thiam Deputy Director, Maritime Safety and Marine Pollution Prevention and UNDP Blue Justice Lead Gender Researcher Senegalese National Agency for Maritime Affairs (ANAM). Feel free to sign up [here](#).

Upcoming Webinar on 8th December: Measuring inclusive decision-making: Using administrative data to measure representation in the legislature, public service and the judiciary (SDG 16.7.1a, b & c)

The UNDP Oslo Governance Centre and Inter-Parliamentary Union are inviting data producers and users to a discussion on measuring inclusive decision-making in parliaments, public service and judiciary. At the heart of this initiative is the question: *How can we measure progress towards more representative and inclusive decision-making?* SDG16 as part of the 2030 Agenda calls for a better understanding of how different population groups are represented in parliaments, public service and judiciary. The SDG framework encourages countries to report on the proportions of positions in public institutions compared to national distributions and to better understand the extent to which people of different age groups, sex, population groups, or disability are represented in decision-making positions. IPU and UNDP as custodians of different parts of this indicator will provide an update on the indicators and representatives of national statistics offices will share their reflections on challenges encountered as well as existing opportunities and strategies that have been adopted. Aimed at data producers such as national statistics offices, parliaments, public administrations, judiciary, as well as users such as policy makers, this webinar seeks to increase awareness on producing and using data for more inclusive and representative public institutions. For more information please write to [Mariana Neves](#).

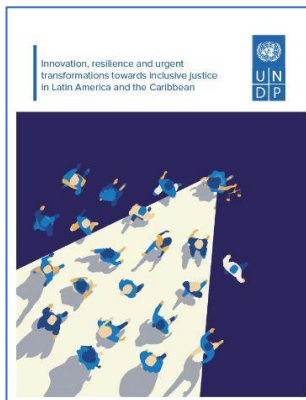
Reports/Researches/Briefings

➤ Regional Report on Arms Export in 2018 – Promoting transparency of arms legal trade from the region:



The Regional Arms Exports Report, covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, is a result of over a decade of regional cooperation and commitment to transparency by Western Balkans governments willing to commonly share their arms exports data. In the world today, the other similar joint publication is published by the European Union. The 2018 edition of the report marks some similar trends on arms exports to previous years but also flags some new data. Compared to the 2017 report, the numbers of issued licenses decreased, while the percentage of the realized exports based on the issued licenses increased. Serbia remains the top arms exporter in the region, amounting to 75.57% of the total regional exports. For 2018, 62.44% of the total arms exports in the region related to the ML3 category— as per the EU Common Military List. For more information see [here](#).

➤ Regional Report "[Innovation, Resilience and Transformations towards Inclusive Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)".



The public health crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean generated by Covid-19 soon became a crisis of governance with unprecedented economic, social, and political consequences. The pandemic has increased social tensions and conflict, putting social cohesion at risk. This situation has been exacerbated by the limitations faced by judicial systems that have reduced their services and limited access to justice. In this context, UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean - through its Regional Centre - has prepared the document '*Innovation, Resilience and Urgent Transformations towards Inclusive Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean*'. Based on tools of public management, human rights, and innovation, this document gathers the experience of UNDP and other agencies in the region in terms of access to justice during the months of the pandemic. Also, it proposes lines of coordinated action between the UNDP, the judiciary, and the institutions of the international community that promote access to justice as a pillar of development and social inclusion.

Explore experiences and the main challenges for the region at the Report "[Innovation, Resilience and Transformations towards Inclusive Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)".

➤ [La Cara Escondida de la Inseguridad](#)

The objective of the report is to reveal and make available to the public a set of data and recommendations on violence against women and girls from a gendered, intersectional and life-cycle public safety perspective in order to strengthen evidence-based policies and programs for prevention, care, punishment and reparation in Central America and the Dominican Republic. The report also highlights achievements with respect to citizen safety and access to justice for women, as well as important challenges that need to be addressed: some countries already have special legislation and tools to understand the magnitude, seriousness and dynamics of the problem. The incorporation of the VCMN as a priority issue in citizen security institutions is presented as a challenge in which it is necessary to advance in order to achieve positive and permanent changes. This report delves into these aspects and provides evidence and recommendations to advance in the construction of peaceful, just and inclusive societies in which women live safely and no one is left behind. For more information see [here](#).

➤ New Toolkit on Remote Hearings



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the administration of justice in almost every legal system. The disruption to conducting in-person hearings and other judicial proceedings has the potential to significantly undermine access to justice, due process, and civil and human rights. To address this gap, the Justice and Corrections Service of the UN [Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions \(OROLSI\)](#), in partnership with the [Division for Peace](#) of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), have developed a Remote Hearing Toolkit that helps stakeholders determine

whether and how to use audio, videoconferencing, and other technologies to conduct remote hearings when in-person hearings are not feasible. The Toolkit provides national stakeholders - ministry officials, judges, lawyers, court officials, and others - with a step-by-step decision-making framework for the introduction and use of remote hearing technology. To be among the first to access this innovative tool, please click [here](#)

Blogs & Op-Eds

✍ [UNDP in Paris Peace Forum—a proud partner to contribute in the “Space for Solutions”](#) by Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary-General & Director, UNDP Crisis Bureau

This blog focusses on how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many longstanding inequalities, exposed global fragilities, devastated lives, economies and communities everywhere; and why its important to forge alliances and build partnerships; invest in digital advances and innovation; and work towards a green recovery to win climate change in order to tackle the multiplier effects. It also speaks of UNDP’s response to COVID-19: “Beyond recovery: towards 2030”, and the prerogative to leave no one behind and reach the most vulnerable first. The three UNDP projects out of the 100 that have been selected for the Paris Peace Forum highlight the success of fruitful partnerships for peace and development, as well as of digital advances and innovation. UNDP’s work relates to the main themes of the Paris Peace Forum— a reason why UNDP is a proud partner to contribute in the “Space for Solutions”. Read more [here](#).

✍ [An important milestone for women, peace and security](#) by Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary-General & Director, UNDP Crisis Bureau

This blog focusses on the important milestone for the Decade of Action, to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 – the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security and why the need to ensure concerted efforts and far greater implementation of the women and peace and security agenda as also highlighted by speakers at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. The year 2020 also marks the [25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action](#). There is no doubt that some progress has been made in advancing the women, peace, and security agenda, but more needs to be done. Read more about UNDP’s work in this area [here](#).

✍ [The hidden pandemic: Firearms and intimate partner violence killing women](#) by Dragan Bozanic, Gender and Research Project Officer, UNDP SEESAC

There has been a worldwide upsurge in domestic violence since the outbreak of COVID-19. Lockdowns and restrictions of movement imposed as a response to the pandemic lead to women being isolated and trapped in their homes with an abuser, significantly increasing the danger of violence, both in terms of frequency and severity. Read more about this [here](#).

✍ [Why do we need to keep an eye on technological advancements in weapons manufacturing?](#) by Alain E. Lapon, Chief Technical Adviser, SEESAC

Technological advancements in weapons production are posing new challenges in small arms and light weapons control. After almost hundred years of traditional design, the industry has brought to the markets smart guns, modular weapons, and 3D printed weapons. Weapons are also no longer produced only in metal, but in other materials, such as techno polymers, for example. This is posing a new challenge in marking, record keeping, detection and tracing of such firearms. Read more about this issue [here](#).

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