

14. LOOKING FORWARD: THE DECADE OF ACTION AND THE DECADE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Participating in Member State-Led and other Global Initiatives for SDG 16+

The initiatives below represent the key global initiatives working on SDG 16. From a Member State-led perspective, this includes the Global Alliance, the Pathfinders and the 16+ Forum. From civil society, this includes the TAP Network and CSPPS and, from a private sector lens, the UN Global Compact.

The Global Alliance for Reporting

Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies:



The Global Alliance is a coordinating platform for UN Member States, private sector, civil society and international entities to work together to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Co-facilitated by UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC and UNHCR, and liaising with partners across the UN System, the Global Alliance brings UN Member States the assistance they need to report meaningfully on progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies — and its links to the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²⁹⁷

The Pathfinders for Peaceful,

Just and Inclusive Societies:



The Pathfinders are a group of 36 UN Member States, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector. They work to accelerate action on the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion. In September 2017, the Pathfinders launched the

Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. Following the first SDG Summit in September 2019, the Pathfinders continue to act as a platform for action. They aim to demonstrate measurable change against the SDG 16+ targets in Pathfinder countries by the second summit in 2023 by working on three objectives: national delivery, international delivery and three grand challenges (promoting justice for all, halving global violence and tackling exclusion and inequality).²⁹⁸

16+ Forum:



A partnership and a platform, the 16+ Forum is comprised of 12 Member States, the g7+ and the

World Federation of United

Nations Associations



World Federation of United Nations Associations as its Secretariat. The 16+ Forum organizes the Annual Showcase, an annual global gathering of policymakers, practitioners and thought-leaders focused on the policy and practice of advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16+). The 2017 inaugural Showcase was held in Georgia, followed by Sierra Leone in 2018 and Timor-Leste in 2019, with an Outcome Document published after each capturing best practices shared. The 2020 Showcase is to be held in Costa Rica (possibly postponed to early 2021 due to COVID-19). In addition to the Showcase, the 16+ Forum organizes side-events throughout the year, particularly around HLPF and UNGA.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁷ The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (About Webpage). <https://www.sdg16hub.org/landing-page/sdg-16-global-alliance>

²⁹⁸ Pathfinders. About Us (Webpage). <https://www.sdg16.plus/about-us>.

²⁹⁹ 16+ Forum. Homepage (Webpage). <https://wfuna.org/sixteenplusforum>

The Transparency, Accountability and

Participation Network for

the 2030 Agenda:

The TAP Network is a broad international coalition of 400+ civil society organizations working together to advance SDG 16+ and to help enhance accountability for the 2030 Agenda. The TAP Network includes hundreds of civil society organizations operating in every region of the world, with TAP's work evolving to not only coordinate collective global advocacy on behalf of its members, but also to provide indirect or direct support to its members to advance SDG 16+ and SDG accountability in their own contexts. TAP's membership includes local and grassroots groups, national, regional and thematic CSO networks, and international NGOs and independent think tanks.³⁰⁰

The Civil Society Platform

for Peacebuilding and

Statebuilding:

CSPPS is a global network of civil society organizations supporting peacebuilding efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings and supporting localization of SDG 16+ in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

The UN Global Compact:

Aligned with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the UN Sustainable Development Goals – particularly SDG 16 – the

Action Platform for Peace, Justice

and Strong Institutions

(“Action Platform”) aims to develop and promote global business standards in understanding, implementing and reporting on businesses’ engagement in these areas.³⁰¹

Engaging in All Opportunities at the HLPF and SDGs Summit

The High-level Political Forum, the SDGs Summit (which takes place every four years with the next being in 2023) and the UN General Assembly³⁰² provide important opportunities for the SDG 16 community to come together to demonstrate progress achieved, shine a light on where progress is needed and further galvanize political will and energy, at all levels, to advance more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

In addition to the VNRs and Spotlight Reports, these global forums provide platforms for Member States, civil society organizations and others to further commit to achieving SDG 16 and to demonstrate what translating such commitments into action looks like across various contexts. While significant efforts have been made at all levels to realize the vision of SDG 16 and the larger 2030 Agenda, the global community is behind schedule and, in fact, risks backsliding. Maintaining focus on SDG 16, as an enabler of the entire 2030 Agenda, is critical to all attempts to stay on track. To this end, and as the world struggles with COVID-19, global SDG 16+ partners issued a statement on HLPF 2020,

Act Now for SDG 16+

– Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong

Institutions in a Pandemic

in support of SDG 16+ as key to building back better from the global pandemic and to realizing the entire 2030 Agenda.³⁰³

In 2019, Member States pledged in their Political Declaration on the SDG Summit to make the last decade of the 2030 Agenda a

Decade of Action

To do this, countries committed to the following 10 principles: leaving no one behind; mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing; enhancing national implementation; strengthening institutions for more integrated

300 The TAP Network 2030. About (Webpage). <https://tapnetwork2030.org/about/>

301 UN Global Compact. Action Platform for Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (webpage).

302 The first [SDG Moment](#) is to take place at the 2020 General Assembly. Envisaged as an annual event, the SDG Moment is to highlight inspiring SDG action.

303 SDG 16+ Global Community Partners (2020). Act Now for SDG16+: Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions in a Pandemic. https://530cfd94-d934-468b-a1c7-c67a84734064.filesusr.com/ugd/6c192f_f93d75d7d34643d1a1528cae6ca88778.pdf

solutions; bolstering local action to accelerate implementation; building resilience; solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership; harnessing science, technology and innovation; investing in data; and strengthening the HLPF.³⁰⁴

A civil society-led

campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs



aims to help guarantee that meaningful follow-up and review on accelerated actions and delivery occur — through monitoring progress, highlighting gaps, preventing backsliding and safeguarding civic space. Moreover, civil society's involvement in leading monitoring and accountability processes over the next 10 years will help to ensure that implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs is open, inclusive, participatory and transparent — principles that are the heart and foundation of this global sustainable development framework.³⁰⁵

In addition, regional forums, such as the

Regional Forums for Sustainable Development



present a yet untapped setting to come together as an SDG 16.³⁰⁶

The HLPF and SDG Summit provide an opportunity to follow up on these commitments and incentivize additional positive change. The thematic focus of

ECOSOC and HLPF in 2021



will be 'Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the

achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.' HLPF 2021 will focus on nine SDGs, including SDG 16.³⁰⁷ This represents an opportunity to maintain focus on SDG 16, as its realization strengthens the realization of all goals, especially in the response to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Sharing Lessons Learned and Best Practices at Global and Regional Forums, as Well as Online Platforms and Dedicated Hubs

Beyond HLPF and SDG Summits, opportunities to come together and share lessons learned, particularly through online platforms, should be seized and expanded. is a one-stop platform for knowledge and exchange on

The SDG 16 Hub



peace, justice and inclusive societies, designed to provide an interactive space to foster knowledge sharing and learning on Goal 16.³⁰⁸ More recently, a page has been added to the Hub to showcase available

'COVID-19 and SDG 16'



resources and knowledge products related to SDG 16 and COVID-19, making it easier for SDG 16 practitioners and others to navigate useful content from various organizations, initiatives and news outlets.³⁰⁹

Such opportunities also include the Annual Showcase as well as annual global events (including now in virtual form) such as the³¹⁰

World Bank's Fragility Forum



304 United Nations. Decade of Action (Webpage). <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

305 TAP Network 2030 & Partners (2020). Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs (Webpage). <https://sdgaccountability.org/decade/>

306 Regional Commissions. United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (webpage). <http://www.regionalcommissions.org/regional-forums-on-sustainable-development/>

307 SDG Knowledge Hub by IISD (2020). HLPF 2021 to Focus on Nine SDGs Linked to Pandemic Recovery. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/hlpf-2021-to-focus-on-nine-sdgs-linked-to-pandemic-recovery/>

308 SDG 16 Hub. Home page. <https://www.sdg16hub.org/>

309 SDG 16 Hub. COVID-19 and SDG 16 (Webpage). <https://www.sdg16hub.org/covid-19-and-sdg-16>

310 The World Bank (2020). Events: The Fragility Forum (2020) (Webpage). <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2020/03/02/fragility-forum-2020>

the Commission on the Status of Women

and^{311, 312}

RightsCon

www

www

As the world continues to grapple with COVID-19, online platforms and dedicated hubs offer a critical space for continued engagement and partnership.

Working Together to Advance SDG 16 in the Decade of Action

In his preliminary³¹³

2020 SDGs Progress Report

www

the UN Secretary-General asserted that “what began as a health crisis has quickly become the worst human and economic crisis of our lifetimes. [...] [T]he COVID-19 pandemic is potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to meet the targets of SDG 16.”

It is against this backdrop that the call for determined solidarity in our collective efforts to realize a more just, peace and inclusive world must be heard. The Decade of Action, the Decade of Accountability and other campaigns, such as the³¹⁴

Voices of SDG 16+ campaign

www

offer powerful tools to raise visibility about SDG 16’s catalytic potential to improve peoples’ lives and galvanize change. As we mark the 75th Anniversary of the UN and ring in the last decade of the 2030 Agenda, it is absolutely imperative that commitments be transformed into actions and that pledges be transformed into tangible support. The challenges and opportunities that lie ahead require a surge in multilateralism and call

on all stakeholders to be champion in the fight for a world that is³¹⁵

free from fear and violence

and where no one

is left behind

www

Key Resources:

- [Decade of Accountability site;](#)
- [Decade of Action site;](#)
- [Voices of SDG 16+ Campaign site;](#)
- [Act Now for SDG 16+- Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions in a Pandemic](#), Statement by the SDG 16+ Community during HLPF 2020.

311 UN Women. Commission on the Status of Women (Webpage). <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

312 RightsCon. RightsCon Online 2020 (webpage). <https://www.rightscon.org/>

313 UN DESA (2020). Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf

314 Voices of SDG 16+ (2020). Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action (Webpage). <https://voicesofsdg16plus.org/>

315 UN (2015). A/RES/70/1 – Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>