

THE THEMATIC REVIEW OF SDG16+ AT HLPF 2021

A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE GLOBAL SDG 16+ COALITION

The SDG16+ targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies underpin success across the 2030 Agenda, with 12 targets from SDG16 and 24 targets from seven other goals that directly measure an aspect of peace, justice and inclusion. As a critical enabler of progress towards the entire 2030 Agenda, urgent action on SDG16+ is a pre-requisite for accelerating implementation across multiple goals and thus, achieving a stronger, more resilient future for both current and future generations. Without continuous progress towards peace, justice and inclusion at all levels, none of the SDGs can be delivered in full.

At an international level, the Global SDG16+ Coalition of 40 countries and over 100 partners is committed to meeting the aspirations set out in the SDG16+ targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Through its [Call to Action](#) this past year, governments, the international community, and leaders in every sector were called on to urgently make SDG16+ the foundation for reset and recovery efforts, and to build more resilient societies and institutions going forward. With the [Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#) and '[A Statement from Business Leaders for Renewed Global Cooperation](#)', there is an increasingly diverse community of voices advocating for a greater focus and accelerated action on SDG 16+.

We are presently off track to meet the vision as outlined in the 2030 Agenda to “build a just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.” In light of the pandemic and its exacerbating effects on pre-existing inequalities, there is a growing awareness of the gap between the stated ambition of the 2030 Agenda and where we are headed based on current trajectories to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

We, the SDG 16+ Coalition, are calling on Governments to urgently make SDG16+ the foundation for reset and recovery efforts by:

- 1 Displaying and enacting political leadership and financial investments to implement SDG16+;
- 2 Committing to a whole-of-society approach to ensure that government action is responsive to reaching those further behind;
- 3 Safeguarding and, where possible, expanding civic space and increasing public trust;
- 4 Investing in local actors and action for sustainable development;
- 5 Ensuring human rights-based and people-centred approach to recovery and rebuilding.

ALL THIS, IN ORDER TO TRULY LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.

Although the challenges are daunting, they also represent opportunities. In a world where billions lack justice, live in fear of violence, and are at risk of being left behind, COVID-19 presents governments with an unprecedented opportunity to emerge stronger by putting SDG16+ at the heart of recovery efforts. Only peaceful, just and inclusive societies are equipped to change the world and solve humanity's greatest challenges.