



## SDG 16 Hub Community Update | August 2021

This Hub newsletter captures the exciting events from last month related to the advancement of Agenda 2030 and SDG 16, with a particular focus on the recent High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021. This HLPF brought together experts from civil society, academia, governments, private and other sectors in an online format to focus on the SDGs under review, as well as how the COVID-19 pandemic has been impacting them. Among other subjects, the importance of peaceful, just and inclusive societies was highlighted in more than ten different side events. Keep reading to know more about these and other highlights, including what is coming up.

For any feedback, please write to [contact@sdg16hub.org](mailto:contact@sdg16hub.org)



## High-level Political Forum 2021 – SDG 16 Events

**As governance crises worsen COVID-19 impact, is SDG 16 the key for recovery?**

Highlighting the latest research and expertise, this roundtable brought together policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders to explore the emerging trends on SDG 16, with a particular focus on the Global South and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, speakers debated on how peace, justice and inclusion can support progress on the 2030 Agenda as a whole, including on health, the economy and the environment, and how these “interlinkages” can be used as levers to inform COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

For more information, including a recording and summary of the event, click [here](#).

### **Coming to peace with COVID-19?**

This event explored the consequences of the pandemic for peace, justice and strong institutions. Based on country experiences from Nepal and Cameroon, and research findings, the panel discussion gave a first assessment of international cooperation in times of COVID-19. Moreover, policy recommendations on how to keep peacebuilding on the recovery agenda were developed.

For more information, including a brief summary of session, click [here](#).

### **Accelerating the SDGs Monitoring and Implementation actions using SDG 16+**

Coming to the end of the first cycle of SDG implementation, only a few countries and statistical offices have experience in producing governance data or in establishing the type of inclusive systems needed to monitor and report on governance, peace and security indicators. This event brought together experts from government, civil society and the UN to address critical challenges pertaining to the monitoring of SDG 16+, and exchange experiences, success stories, obstacles and opportunities to address gaps in the production and use of SDG16+ data.

Read more [here](#).

### **Beyond crunching numbers: collaborative approaches to monitor Goal 16**

Within the Decade of Action, the monitoring of targets under Goal 16 can provide valuable information from which to design evidence-based programmes to advance the implementation of the Goal as a whole while leaving no one behind. This side event invited speakers from the UN system, Governments and Civil society to reflect on challenges and good practices for monitoring SDG 16. The session featured short questions and interaction from the floor to look at how

different stakeholders contribute to the monitoring of different targets under SDG 16, as well as the various ways in which they can be assessed.

Read more [here](#).

### **Launch Event: SDG16+ Civil Society Toolkit**

This event guided participants through the content of the *“SDG16+ Civil Society Toolkit”*, a comprehensive resource guide that provides expert insights and the latest guidance for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with SDG16+, and featured reflections from experts and contributing authors working towards advancing SDG16+.

Read more [here](#).

### **SDG Learning Lab: Mainstreaming SDG 16+ in VNRs and National Development Planning**

This session demonstrated how VNR reporting on SDG16+ can inform national planning and foster inclusive partnerships in a ‘whole-of-society’ approach, deepening interlinkages and implementation across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, it highlighted good practices from Cabo Verde and Costa Rica on SDG16+ implementation and reporting, examined research on gender, justice and migration, and showcased opportunities to strengthen data collection and scale innovation for peace, justice and inclusion.

Read more [here](#).

### **Impact of the Pandemic on Measuring Progress of SDG 16+: Looking Forward, Tackling Obstacles**

This event sought to enable a conversation to discuss evidence-base findings and propose forward looking recommendation to recover from the pandemic, enhancing methodologies for measuring progress, the availability of data, and the effects on the quality of institutions. The conversation highlighted the importance of data collection from official and unofficial sources to achieve SDG 16+ in the post-pandemic world, as well as the need to overcome limitations in the access to information.

Read more [here](#).

## **Resilient Recovery through Local Action on SDG16+**

This third edition of the *Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action* video campaign featured local civil society voices from around the world to showcase how their work on SDG16+ is contributing to resilient recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Featured videos exemplified how the global goal towards more peaceful, just and inclusive societies is being implemented and is invaluable in positively impacting people's lives – despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information can be found [here](#).

## **The Role of Civil Society in Contributing to Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies**

This side-event highlighted the role that civil society organizations play in implementing SDG 16 and holding their governments accountable for commitments to this Goal and the wider 2030 Agenda. Members of civil society from three countries – Mexico, South Africa, and the Philippines – showcased the ways in which they have directly contributed to peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Read more [here](#).

## **SDG16+: a United Framework to Build Forward Better**

In this event, the Global SDG16+ Coalition called on the global community to make SDG16+ the foundation for reset and recovery efforts, and for building more resilient societies and institutions going forward, including through the launch of a [joint statement](#). The session showcased local examples for safeguarding peace, justice and inclusion and highlighted the importance of SDG16+, its interlinkages to all SDGs, and its role as an enabler of the entire 2030 Agenda.

Read more [here](#).

## **HLPF 2021: Empowering people to protect the planet in a COVID-19 context: the contribution of SDG 16 and environmental access rights to sustainable and resilient recovery**

This event generated a space for inter-regional, multi-stakeholder dialogue on experiences that empower people to protect the planet in times of COVID-19. The implementation of

environmental access rights to information, public participation and justice at different levels was featured as a linchpin of sustainable and resilient recovery efforts. The event featured representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to engage in a collective discussion on how to devise effective pathways for building forward greener and better.

Read more [here](#).



## Key Messages: SDG 16 Trends and Emerging Issues in the Context of COVID-19

After two months of online discussion, over 150 comments from close to 40 participants dispersed globally, the joint UNDP–Southern Voice e-discussions have led to a set of key findings related to SDG 16. In the four part e-discussions, participants talked about peace and security; accountability, rule of law and human rights; civil engagement and civic space; and transparent, inclusive and responsive public service delivery. The key findings involve distribution of power, instrumentalization of exclusion, connections between poverty and inequality and conflict, risks of digitalization, the effects of the pandemic on women, and more. To read the key messages, click [here](#). For a summary of all discussions, list of contributors and extra material, click [here](#), and [here](#) to access the discussions in full.



## **Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG16: 2021 Epilogue**

With SDG 16 being reviewed during the High-Level Political Forum in 2021, it is imperative, more than ever, to focus on what the global community has learned in responding to the pandemic and to explore what can be done further to accelerate SDG 16+ and reach those that are still being left behind. In this context, the Global Alliance developed an Epilogue to its 2019 seminal report [Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion](#). The 2021 Epilogue provides an opportunity to revisit existing findings and puts forward practical case studies and recommendations with focus on COVID-19 and pandemic response efforts. To read the Epilogue, click [here](#).



## **Regional Training on Measuring SDG 16 in Asia**

**Every Thursday (Online) | 16 September - 4 November, 2021**

**Coming up: Regional Training on Measuring  
SDG 16 in Asia**

A Regional Training on Measuring SDG 16 indicators in Asia is being organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)), the United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([UNESCAP](#)) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)). This series of interactive and online training workshops will take place between from **16 September and 4 November 2021**. It will focus on technical guidelines on how to measure the indicators and feature national experiences from the region. The main objectives of the training are: strengthen technical capacities of national authorities to produce, analyse and disseminate relevant SDG 16 indicators, strengthen the organizational framework, and promote a “data community” among data producers and users for the exchange of experiences and challenges

The training welcomes participants who wish to explore and deepen their knowledge on the measurement of violence prevention, strengthening criminal justice systems, prisons, access to justice, combating organized crime, illicit trafficking, corruption, preventing conflict-related deaths, protecting fundamental freedoms, inclusive and effective public institutions, promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## New in the SDG 16 Hub Community

Here is some of the latest activity by members of the SDG 16 Hub Community:

- ✓ [Merle Jasper](#) – Research Document: [Linking SSG/R to the SDGs: An Analysis of VNRs \(2016–2019\)](#)
- ✓ [Peter van Sluijs](#) – Blog/Op-Ed: [An online UN HLPF will not stop SDG 16+ from backsliding](#)
- ✓ [Merle Jasper](#) – Guidance: [SSR Backgrounder on SDG 16](#)
- ✓ [Merle Jasper](#) – Research Document: [Nexus Between Security Sector Governance/Reform and Sustainable Development Goal 16](#)
- ✓ SDG 16 Hub – Guidance: [OECD: Grasping the Justice Gap - Opportunities and Challenges for People-Centred Justice Data](#)
- ✓ [Leon Willems](#) – Best Practices/Recommendations: [Civil Society data on Safety of Journalists are neglected by UN member states](#)

- ✓ [Cat Botto](#) – Communication: [The Thematic Review of SDG16+ at HLPF 2021: A Joint Statement by the Global SDG16+ Coalition](#)
- ✓ [Leon Willems](#) – Research Document: [Covid-19 Procurement and Global Challenges to Access to Information \(ATI\)](#)
- ✓ SDG 16 Hub – Communication: [SDG 16 Interlinkages - Summary of Findings](#)
- ✓ [Cat Botto](#) – Blog/Op-Ed: [Spotlight Reports: A Missing Link for Accountability at the High-Level Political Forum](#)

To access your profile on the SDG 16 Hub, [click here](#).

*The SDG 16 Hub is hosted by the UNDP Oslo Governance Center. For more information, see [here](#).*

If you no longer wish to receive communication e-mails from the SDG 16 Hub Team, please write to [contact@sdg16hub.org](mailto:contact@sdg16hub.org)