SDG 16 Hub Community Update | January 2022

The SDG 16 Community Update is back with its first edition for 2022! In this edition, you will find some of the latest resources including:

- **Review of SDG 16 in the 2021 Voluntary National Reviews** prepared by White & Case for the Global Alliance on Reporting on SDG 16
- **Budget Choices In a Time of Pandemic: Advancing Gender Equality or Holding it Back?** by UN Women
- **Emerging Technologies and Judicial Integrity in ASEAN** and the related **Emerging Technologies Judicial Integrity Toolkit for Judges** by UNDP

Upcoming events include:

- **ECOSOC Partnership Forum** (2 February)
- **The Global Disability Summit** (16-17 February)
- **The SDG 16 Survey: Support to Data Collection on Peace, Justice and Inclusive Institutions** side event of the 53rd UN Statistical Commission (18 February)
- **16+ Forum Annual Showcase: Strengthening Democracy to Achieve Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies** (15-18 March)
- **Sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women** (14-25 March)

Don’t miss the last section on what’s ‘NEW IN THE SDG16 HUB COMMUNITY’ which has lots of useful information!

Again, we are thrilled to start 2022 with more SDG16 updates including on events, resources and initiatives. For any feedback, please write to contact@sdg16hub.org.
Global Alliance: White & Case Review of the 2021 Voluntary National Reviews & SDG 16

In 2015, the Member States of the United Nations announced their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) and 169 targets. The Member States vowed not only to act on these critical issues but also to engage in voluntary, transparent, and rigorous follow-ups and reviews. The results are published through the Voluntary National Reviews (“VNRs”). The VNRs use a set of global targets and indicators to evaluate the progress and challenges of implementing the SDGs by each Member State.

The annual review by White & Case assesses whether the VNRs contained a specific section or chapter on SDG16. This year’s report also identifies if the VNRs relied on Human Rights reports or engaged Human Rights institutions for data and discusses COVID-19’s impact on SDG16 reporting or implementation. The report also mentions negative trends or challenges in implementing or collecting SDG16 data and provides recommendations on post-VNR follow up with respect to SDG16 and the 2030 Agenda.

Read more about the White & Case review on the Global Alliance page of the SDG 16 Hub here.

Budget Choices In a Time of Pandemic: Advancing Gender Equality or Holding it Back? - Report Albania
Many governments faced significant pressure due the COVID-19 pandemic. Under crisis, decisions on budgets and reallocations were taken rapidly and often without prior analysis of needs and without including gender perspective. During the gender responsive budgeting trainings with municipalities and local government representatives in Albania, the importance of reallocating their budgets taking on a gender perspective was emphasized.

Read more about this in the latest UN Women Albania’s report [here](#).

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Emerging Technologies and Judicial Integrity in ASEAN

As part of the Judicial Integrity Network in ASEAN initiative, UNDP conducted research to examine how emerging technologies can play a role in protecting judicial integrity. The research sought to better understand how emerging technologies affect judicial integrity, both positively and negatively. The report presents the analysis of research, including direct surveying of judges, on the impacts of new technologies on judicial integrity, and access to justice. It looks at artificial intelligence, case management, online forms and virtual hearings. It provides recommendations for regional support and court-level changes to practices to ensure that judges can promote rule of law and trial fairness in technology mediated processes.

Read more about [this report](#) and how UNDP is nurturing this network of judges, which supports target countries in pursuing judicial reforms, focusing particularly on transparency, accountability, integrity, accessibility, and court excellence, promoting knowledge exchange and peer-support.
Emerging Technologies and Judicial Integrity Toolkit for Judges

This Toolkit is designed to respond to the recommendations presented in the report *Emerging Technologies and Judicial Integrity in ASEAN*. The tool provides a primer on new technologies and their impact on judicial integrity and identifies ways for judges to bring their leadership and expertise on rights protection, rule of law and equality to the introduction of new technologies into court processes and operations.

This set of tools is designed to: build judicial understanding of specific emerging technologies and their use in court processes and operations; create a common understanding of new court technologies; build understanding of the appropriate role for judges in the procurement process; create a common understanding of how well-designed procurement can protect judicial excellence; ensure that judicial excellence is a key priority in court technology design and implementation; build understanding of how judges can scrutinize the technology in use in their courtroom; and develop common expectations of technology in the courtroom, whether in-person or online.

Find out more about this toolkit on the [SDG 16 Hub](#).

Presentation of the Toolkit “Qualitative Assessment of Progress on SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”
26th January 2022

In 2020, the Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia (CSDR) released the first Civil Society Report on the implementation of the SDGs in Russia. The expert group that worked on the SDG 16 chapters ran into an ambiguous understanding of how to track progress on this SDG. That is why the members of the CSDR represented by the NGOs “Civil Watch” and Dekabristen e.V. decided to issue a toolkit to track progress on qualitative data for SDG 16. This toolkit should help the non-profit sector in understanding the main gaps in achieving SDG 16 in their countries, as well as determine what requirements should be put forward to the state in the first place in order to progress on SDG 16 reached by the end of 2030.

On January 26 an online presentation of the toolkit “Qualitative Assessment of Progress on SDG 16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions” was held. At this event, experts presented their work and answer questions from the participants. To learn more about this online presentation click here.

ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2022
02nd February 2022

The 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be held on 2 February 2022 on the “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Multiple actors and stakeholders will participate, including countries, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and others.

Participants will debate solutions and policies to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic guided by the SDGs. They are expected to exchange new ideas, expectations and priorities which should be explored further by the Council and the High-Level Political Forum in the following months; and shine the spotlight on forward-looking actions and partnerships by countries and all relevant stakeholders that can help recover from the pandemic and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Find more information about this Session and the side events here.
The International Disability Alliance (IDA), the Government of Norway, and the Government of Ghana will host the second Global Disability Summit on 16 and 17 February 2022 (GDS22). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure inclusive participation at the Summit, the event will be held on a digital platform. The Summit will mobilize efforts for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the principle of ‘Leave No One Behind’ (LNOB) and building back better and more inclusive with regards to Covid-19.

The Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS22) in Oslo will build on the results achieved at the first Summit, to further accelerate much-needed progress towards the fulfillment of the rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.

To find out more and to register click [here](#).
The event will present the **SDG 16 Survey** that covers the dimensions of access to justice, corruption, discrimination, governance, human trafficking and violence. Showcasing the experiences of countries piloting the survey and sharing reflections on the process of development of the survey, this side event provides a space for participants to understand the opportunities presented by the new SDG 16 Survey to **accelerate data availability on critical areas that are affecting countries’ progress towards sustainable development**. These issues are even more relevant as countries across the board are seeing reversals in development due to COVID-19. The SDG 16 Survey can help better understand and target policies to address some of the structural challenges facing countries, particularly for marginalized groups, in the wake of COVID-19 to build ‘forward’ better. Find out more about this event and register [here](#).

![Image: SDG 16 Survey Event]

**Sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

14th – 25th March 2022

The sixty-sixth session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022. Representatives of **Member States**, **UN entities**, and **ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session. The key themes of these sessions will be: achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session).

For more information about the organization of this session click [here](#).
2022 16+ Forum Annual Showcase: Strengthening Democracy to Achieve Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – hosted by Costa Rica

15th – 18th March 2022

The 16+ Forum provides a platform to demonstrate SDG 16+ in policy and practice, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and universally across countries and contexts. Through gatherings, events and publications, it facilitates dialogue, learning and exchange among stakeholders. Its flagship global gathering, the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase, brings together 250+ policy makers, practitioners and thought leaders from over 45 countries focused on the policy and practice of advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

The fourth 16+ Forum Annual Showcase will take place for the first time in Latin America and will provide a unique opportunity to highlight the implementation of SDG 16+ in the region. Bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and sectors engaged in SDG 16+, this global gathering offers an opportunity for Costa Rica and the larger international community to highlight successes, challenges, and solutions in meaningfully advancing SDG 16+. To find out more about this event, click here.

New in the SDG 16 Hub Community

- Blog-Op/Ed: Now is the Time to Close Gaps in Governance Statistics – And the Praia Group is ready for the challenge
- Closed Group: Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination and Equality
- Closed Group: Praia Group Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

To access your profile on the SDG 16 Hub, click here

The SDG 16 Hub is hosted by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. For more information, see here

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