

Concept Note

Monitoring and Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies

Initiative of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September 2017
Oslo, Norway

I. Summary: This workshop will enable representatives of countries in the ECIS region and others, civil society and the private sector to share experiences and international standards on monitoring and reporting progress on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will exchange experiences, approaches and tools on country specific methodologies for monitoring and reporting progress on aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies most relevant to their context.ⁱ

II. Background: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 by UN Member States is a universal, indivisible, and transformative vision to eradicate extreme poverty over 15 years within a framework of sustainable peace for people and planet. The 2030 Agenda promotes the achievement of a set of 17 interdependent social, economic and environmental “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs), including SDG 16 to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Goal 16 and related targets and indicators are seen as an enabler goal for the entire 2030 Agenda, as without peace, effective institutions, and inclusive access to public goods and services, there can be no human development. This includes: access to justice for all; effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; reducing violence; tackling corruption and organized crime; ensuring access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms.

Since committing to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Member States have also adopted numerous ways of tracking progress towards each of the goals, ensuring that no one is left behind.ⁱⁱ Monitoring and demonstrating progress on the indicators and targets of SDG 16 and others related to promoting many different, and country-specific aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societiesⁱⁱⁱ requires significant investment and innovative initiatives.

This is a relatively new focus area of the international community on peace, justice and inclusion in the SDGs, with no direct precedent in the Millennium Development Goal era. The data required to report progress on these issues goes beyond that which is currently collected by most National Statistics Offices. It includes survey and administrative data—from line ministries, local governments, justice sector institutions, national human rights institutions—as well as statistics and stories available to civil society organisations, media, academia, and the private sector. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda is about strengthened national ownership, and empowering transformation.

Many countries wish to develop additional indicators which reflect their own priorities, and to use information sources which enable them to report progress in a way that gives a more comprehensive sense of how life is changing for ordinary people—for example, the human stories available to journalists and civil society organisations can offer an important complement to statistics. Where can relevant data and information be found? Which institutions can help to obtain, analyse and present it in a way that makes it understandable and useful to policy makers? And how can the reporting process itself promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, by bringing together, uniting them in a common endeavour, and fostering shared understanding between them? In short, reporting on the targets and indicators included in the global SDG 16 framework requires a new approach, and entails a collaborative endeavour.

Recognizing the need to form new partnerships to support Member States to report on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, the *Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies* brings together Member States, civil society, and the private sector to support effective and meaningful reporting on the achievement of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies—taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. The co-facilitators (UNDP, UNODC and UNESCO) provide Secretariat support as required by members of the Alliance, and assist with preparation of events and convening dialogues between members.

III. Rationale: To support Member States to meet the challenge—and seize the opportunity—offered by reporting on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, the Global Alliance is organising a series of regional workshops in 2017. The workshop on Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies in Oslo, Norway will be the second, and will focus on Western, Central, Eastern European, and Central Asian countries^{iv}. It will bring together senior technical representatives of Member States responsible for reporting on the SDGs, as well as key representatives from civil society, the private sector, and international organisations to support Member States with this task. The workshops

will be facilitated by respective experts, including (where relevant) from UN entities with expertise on monitoring progress on Goal 16-related targets. The sessions will provide participants with insights into the various processes and tools available for reporting progress on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

Participants will learn from peer-to-peer exchanges and will discuss challenges and guiding principles for monitoring and reporting on the aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies most relevant to their context.^v Participants will also benefit from exposure to existing standard methodologies and quality standards, as well as innovative approaches to 'nationalise' the global SDG framework through development of national indicators and inclusion of 'non-official' data sources which can help to give a more comprehensive picture of how life is changing for ordinary people. Amongst other factors, participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the lessons from the first round of reporting in 2016, and related initiatives.^{vi}

Sessions will support countries to identify how lessons emerging from these different experiences can be applied to their own country contexts, take stock of current national processes for reporting, identify where there may be gaps, and develop plans that will seek to ensure more robust reporting on aspects of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Where additional support may be required at the national level, the Global Alliance can provide targeted assistance.

IV. Objectives: Specific objectives of the Oslo workshop include:

- Encouraging countries to report/re-report on peaceful, just and inclusive societies in 2018 and 2019.^{vii}
- Enabling countries to: a) identify a reporting methodology that will allow them to present a comprehensive picture of progress towards achieving peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in 2017 and in subsequent years; and b) develop a network to support them to implement their selected approach through informal exchanges and mutual support following the workshop. Options for follow up may include regional working groups and others.

Which will be achieved through:

- Sharing of knowledge and experiences on monitoring and reporting on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, including on national processes for target setting and selection of national indicators.
- Discussing principles and quality requirements in the collection of relevant information on issues related to peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.
- Highlighting challenges in monitoring and reporting and strategies to address them, including drawing on non-official data sources.
- Outlining country-specific strategies for engaging a broad constituency (civil society, media, academia, think tanks and others) in planning, monitoring and reporting.

A summary note compiling country experiences, lessons learned, challenges, country needs, and next steps for follow-up from Global Alliance and/or partners will be prepared.

IV. Participants: The workshop in Oslo is expected to involve more than 40 participants mainly from Western, Central, and Eastern European countries and Central Asia. Per country participants will include: two representatives of national authorities^{viii} one representative from private sector, and one representative from civil society. To bring in the global perspective, resource persons from entities with relevant expertise will also be invited, to complement a strongly regional focused meeting.

V. Format and Preliminary Agenda: The working sessions of the workshop will be based around research regarding various approaches and methodologies adopted by States to monitor and report on the SDGs, particularly SDG 16 and related targets.^{ix} Drawing on these, workshop preparatory materials will aim to highlight concrete, practical, and proven effective practices in planning, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 and related targets, as well as challenges that Member States have faced. Practical exercises for developing country-specific methodologies will be developed in consultation with experienced practitioners around the priority themes for reporting identified above – such as tackling gender-based violence, promoting innovative approaches to anti-corruption, fostering public sector integrity, encouraging taxation and transparency around earnings, parliamentary oversight, open government and e-governance, effective and responsive institutions, inclusive public services to leave no-one behind, and others.

The draft agenda to be followed will detail the objective and discussion topics for each session.

The event will be held in English. It is expected that simultaneous translation to Russian will be available.

ⁱ In addition to presentations from workshop participants, inputs to peer-learning process include an initial compilation of good reporting practices from the UNDP-Open Governance Partnership supported Mid-Term Review meeting of the National-level Monitoring of SDG 16ⁱ and the Germany Government-supported Partners for Review meeting (both March 2017).ⁱ The Global Alliance is supporting communications efforts around both of these initiatives.

ⁱⁱ There are many SDG-related reporting processes taking place at the national and international levels, including: Voluntary National Reviews for the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (22 countries developed Voluntary National Reviews in 2016: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela); 44 countries develop Voluntary National Reviews in 2017: Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Netherlands, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay, Zimbabwe; Thematic SDG Reports resulting from the HLPF; National SDG Reports based on national priorities; The Global Sustainable Development Report <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalsdreport>; The Secretary General's Sustainable Development Goals Report, utilizing the Global Indicator Framework and drawing on data from Member States. <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/>

ⁱⁱⁱ In addition to targets and indicators included in SDG 16, the 2030 Agenda includes a further 24 targets from 7 other goals which directly relate to 'peaceful, just, and inclusive societies': 4.7 on a culture of peace, non-violence and global citizenship; 5.2 on violence against women and girls; 5.3 on child marriage and female genital mutilation; 8.7 on child labour and soldiers; 10.7 on safe migration; 8.7 on forced and modern slavery and human trafficking; 11.7, 11.1, 11.2, 8.8 and 4a on safe public spaces, housing, transport, workplaces and education facilities; 8.5 on equal pay for equal work; 8.8 on labour rights; 10.3 on equal opportunities, laws, policies and practices; 10.4 on policies for greater equality; 5c on policies and legislation for gender equality; 5.1 on discrimination against women and girls; 4.5 on all forms of discrimination in education; 1b on institutions and policies for poverty reduction; 17.3 on tax collection; 11.3 on inclusive urbanisation; 10.7 on migration policies; 10.5 and 10.6 on global financial and economic institutions; 17.10 on an equitable trade system; 10.2 on political, social and economic inclusion; 5.5 on women's participation and leadership.

^{iv} The first workshop will have taken place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 14-16 June 2017, and the lessons from the Buenos Aires event will contribute to planning for the Oslo Workshop.

^v As with the system put in place for global monitoring of SDGs, national processes should establish transparent and inclusive processes for setting targets, identifying indicators and monitoring mechanisms to ensure effectiveness and quality of national reporting systems.

^{vi} 1) Illustrative work to pilot governance in the context of the SDGs; 2) National-level Monitoring of SDG 16 pilots; 3) Partners for Review initiative; 4) Desk review of 2016 and 2017 VNRs; 5) Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the SDGs; 6) Praia Group initiatives; 7) Methodological guidance on the production of a number of Goal 16 indicators including the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) and the UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimisation Surveys; 8) Other reporting initiatives from different regions – such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the First Andean Congress on SDG Indicators to strengthen the capacities of the National Statistics Systems of the Sub-region for the production of required information to report on global SDGs; 9) Youth participation and wellbeing index development initiatives; 10) Country support and peer-learning initiatives convened by the Global Alliance and its members, including NYU CIC Pathfinders, UNDP MAPS missions, UNODC, UNDESA and others.

^{vii} This means: to report on some or all of the 10 targets and 23 indicators included in the global framework for SDG 16; the 24 targets from 7 other goals directly related to an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice; on improvements in the functioning of government institutions in any sector. As defined through national indicator development processes could measure improvements in 'effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels' in terms of more effective service delivery or more consultative policy development processes from any line ministry or sample of local government offices; more functional procedures as measured by indicators such as time taken to process payments, proportion of government vehicles which are maintained in accordance with national guidelines, etc); greater institutional capacity as measured by indicators such as the proportion of staff in relevant government institutions who pass a given threshold in tests/exams on aspects of institutional performance.

^{viii} To be chosen by countries, but expected to include one person from the National Statistics Office, and one person from a national coordinating Ministry or other body.

^{ix} Particularly relevant in this regard are: the Pathfinders Initiative to produce a Roadmap to guide investments in order to deliver on the SDG targets on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; the UNDP-Open Government Partnership-Community of Democracies-USAID SDG16 National Monitoring Pilots; Illustrative work to pilot governance in the context of the SDGs; Desk review of 2016 VNRs; Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the SDGs; First Andean Congress on SDG Indicators to strengthen the capacities of the National Statistics Systems of the Sub-region for the production of required information to report on global SDGs; Praia Group initiatives; Methodological guidance on the production of a number of Goal 16 indicators including the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) and the UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimisation Surveys; Youth participation and wellbeing index development initiatives; and other country support and peer-learning initiatives convened by the Global Alliance and its members, including UNDP MAPS missions, UNODC, UNDESA and others. A briefing paper compiling key 'take-aways' from these resources, and a link to a curated digital document repository will be circulated to participants in advance of the meeting.