SDG16
data initiative

MONITORING PROGRESS ON SDG16: UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC TO REBUILD AND MOVE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
Side event in the margins of the 2021 SDG16 Conference
Tuesday, 27 April 2021
10:00am – 11:30am EDT (New York time)

BACKGROUND

Mankind continues to face one of the deepest sanitary crises in its history, affecting the quality of democracies, economies, and welfare worldwide. More than five years from the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals framework, we find ourselves at a point of setback, where the need to have strong and inclusive institutions, able to guarantee justice and peace, becomes instrumental to enable the achievement of the already ambitious SDGs.

This year, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the Government of Italy are organizing the 2021 SDG16 Conference, will consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 16 as well as the transformative contribution SDG 16 can make in helping to safeguard and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SDG 16 Data Initiative, a consortium of 17 organizations dedicated to the implementation and open tracking of progress toward the SDG16 targets, will take this opportunity to enable a conversation to complement and expand on the findings of its 2020 Global Report, dedicated to providing governments, UN officials, civil society actors, the academia, and other stakeholders with a resource to help understand progress on the SDG16 targets. It also provides an evidence base for identifying gaps in both the implementation and monitoring of SDG16, and for altering course to accelerate implementation where needed, and specifically in the current context.

Among the key issues analyzed in this edition of the Global Report, we highlight global violence and sex-disaggregated data; official and non-official data for conflict analysis; trade-related illicit financial flows; corruption; valid and viable measurement of SDG16 targets; access to information; and data gap on peace, justice, and accountable institutions.

The purpose of this online event is to further discuss key issues related to the progress of SDG 16, and have a conversation on its key elements, while further discussing challenges and opportunities for the achievement of SDG16, with special focus on:

- The crucial role of civil society in supporting and complementing the work of governments in collecting, monitoring, and reporting on data for SDG16.

- SDG16 as an enabler of the broader Sustainable Development Agenda; and the impact of the current pandemic and its intensifying effect on many pre-existing challenges to achieving peace, justice, and inclusion.

- Positive developments that contribute to the Decade of Action and Accountability, building on highlights of the three previous SDG16DI Global Reports covering the availability of data on all 12 SDG16 targets (2017); the triune aims of SDG16 for peace, justice, and inclusion (2018); and the state of SDG16 globally according to nonofficial data for all 12 targets (2019).

- Reinforcement of the importance of non-official data in monitoring the governance, impact and response to COVID-19.

This event will fit into the three (3) broader themes of the SDG 16 Conference, contributing to the conversation that will take place during the 3-day virtual event. The main themes of the conference will be: 1) Our shared fragility: The impact of COVID-19 on SDG 16; 2) Renewing the social contract to build trust between people and state; and, 3) Turning challenges into opportunities: rethinking governance with SDG16 at its center.

PURPOSE

The virtual meeting is intended to contribute to the conversation that will take place in the framework of the SDG 16 Conference organized by UNDESA, IDLO and the Government of Italy, and to continue expanding on the findings of the SDG16 Data Initiative Global Report 2020, which constitutes a platform to analyze the advances around SDG16 and the data gaps that still exist in the task of assessing progress.

The meeting proposes a multi-stakeholder space to highlight trends and seeks to present an outlook for the next years, showcasing specific cases that would help identify challenges and opportunities on the creation of data that would contribute to the UN's institutional frameworks to measure progress, and complement the work that National Statistical Offices, as presented through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), as well as other resources developed by local, national, regional and global actors for this purpose.

ABOUT THE SDG16 DATA INITIATIVE

The SDG16 Data Initiative is a collective project by a consortium of 17 organizations seeking to support the open tracking of the global commitments made by more than 194 countries on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

The initiative aims to complement the current efforts underway to develop an official indicator framework for monitoring the SDGs. It is intended that national statistical systems will eventually produce the majority of the data for these indicators. The UN Statistical System and other global organizations will then collate this official data at the global level. However, official data availability and coverage is currently limited, and it may take years to develop capacities and to collect data for official monitoring through official statistical systems. In the interim, we should draw on available data to help countries get started with monitoring SDG16.

The SDG16 Data Initiative, formed by a group of organizations with expertise in these areas, aims to fill this role. The initiative is an attempt to pull together data sets in an open format to track SDG16 and provide a snapshot of the current situation, and eventually progress over time. To this end, we include both global and complementary indicators, presented with official and unofficial data. The process also seeks to identify potential challenges in data quality, availability, and coverage that need to be addressed.

AGENDA

10:00 - 11:30 **MONITORING PROGRESS ON SDG16: UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC TO REBUILD AND MOVE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES**

Moderator
- **Massimo Tommasoli**, Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations; Coordinator of the SDG16 Data Initiative

10:10-11:00 **Discussion Panel**
- **Sarah Chamness Long**, Director, Access to Justice Research, World Justice Project
- **Toby Mendel,** Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy
- **Roberto Kukutschka**, Research Coordinator, Transparency International
- **Alberto Fernandez Gibaja**, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

11:00-11:30 **Q&A**