



CONCEPT NOTE

Multi-stakeholder Panel: SDG 16+ Lessons learned in implementation, partnerships and the way forward

Side event – United Nations High-Level Political Forum

15 July 2019 – Uganda House

336 East 45th Street, New York City, NY

BACKGROUND

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted unanimously by 193 United Nations Member States in September 2015, constitutes a historic global effort, creating an action plan for the entire world to follow, aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all.

The Community of Democracies and International IDEA's mission to support democratic institutions and promote the democratic values enshrined both, in the Warsaw Declaration and the founding principles of International IDEA, is firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda. This connection is explicitly recognized in the Agenda when it reaffirms that there can be no sustainable development without peace, nor peace without sustainable development; acknowledging the importance of democracy as a precondition for economic and social development. The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and peace and security are crucial for sustainable development.

In 2017, the Community of Democracies in line with its mission, developed a set of Global Voluntary Supplemental Indicators for Goal 16. These supplemental indicators were provided as a non-prescriptive tool for states to use in measuring critical aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, supporting the comprehensive achievement of Goal 16.

In January 2018, the Community, carried out the Busan Democracy Forum (BuDF) 2018, a joint with Asia Democracy Network (ADN) and Asia Development Alliance (ADA). The multi-stakeholder forum, brought together participants from civil society, policy-makers, academic institutions, and others from the Asia region, engaged in initiatives focused on the implementation of SDG 16.

In February 2019, as a follow-up to the Busan Democracy Forum, the Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum was carried out in Mongolia, providing a platform for the organization of a regional technical consultation on SDG16 and related targets in Asia, aimed at helping inform the HLPF 2019 thematic review. The event provided a platform for knowledge-sharing among multi-stakeholders in the Asia and Pacific region, including governmental actors, academics, civil society, and the private sector. The forum built on discussions undertaken in Busan and its recommendations on implementing SDG16+ in Asia and the Pacific, by considering progress made in the region as well as sharing best practices on monitoring, reporting and evaluation of Goal 16+.

Just like the Community, several multilateral initiatives at the global and regional levels aimed at advancing the implementation of Goal 16 and related targets (Goal 16+) on peace, justice and strong institutions have been in place for the past years making progress in the advancement of SDG 16+. An important initiative in this regard has been the Inter-Regional Dialogue for Democracy (IRDD), an initiative of International IDEA, which brings together regional and global intergovernmental organizations working around key issues related to democracy.

In 2018, an Inter-Regional Experts Meeting was held in the framework of the IRDD in the margins of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. At the meeting, discussions centered on the advancement

of SDG16. In September 2018, in the margins of UNGA in New York a follow-up High-level IRDD meeting discussed conclusions and further recommendations on how to move forward with SDG 16. On June 20, 2019, an IRDD Inter-Regional Experts meeting was held in Bogota, Colombia. This meeting centered on the discussion of SDG16 and on the correlation between democracy and peacebuilding.

It has been almost four years of work to advance Goal 16, with multi-stakeholder alliances, public and private partnerships, civil society platforms, all working towards implementation of Goal 16+ while ensuring No One is Left Behind. It is time to pause, reflect and discuss what we still need to do, the challenges we still have ahead, since 2030 is only 11 years away.

PURPOSE

From 9-18 July 2019, stakeholders will gather at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC to review progress made under Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

This year's HLPF's theme "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*", will review for the first time Goal 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Additionally, in September 2019 the HLPF will also be convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This will be an opportunity to look back at 4 years of implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the first four- year review will be conducted, identifying progress and challenges and discussing actions to ensure further implementation of the Agenda.

International IDEA and the Community of Democracies have been working for the past 2 years to enable spaces for key stakeholders to have open conversations around their work toward the achievement of SDG 16+ and have joined forces to develop a set of policy recommendations on the way forward.

These policy recommendations, which will include highlights from meetings held in the Americas, Europe and Asia, including the 2018 Busan Democracy Forum, 2019 Ulaanbaatar Democracy Forum, and the various IRDD workshops on SDG16 in the past two years, will be the basis for the panel discussion.

The two-hour meeting will seek to discuss challenges encountered and achievements made in SDG 16+ implementation, identifying solutions and strategies which could be put in place in the short term to advance with Goal 16+ implementation.

PARTICIPANTS

The Panel will bring together representatives from the Community of Democracies, International IDEA, global and regional organizations, as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives, and civil society, working on the advancement of SDG 16+.

Initiatives on SDG16 will be invited to this discussion, including: The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, the 16+ Forum, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, Asia Democracy Network (ADN), TAP Network and others.

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss and take stock on results achieved and challenges still facing implementation of Goal 16+ since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015.
- To present the outcomes of global, regional and inter-regional initiatives that aimed at gathering best practices, challenges and opportunities, as well as policy recommendations towards the advancement of SDG 16+.
- Explore and discuss how global and multi-stakeholder initiatives could further collaborate and partner with the United Nations and civil society to ensure implementation of Goal 16+ in the coming years.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The results of the discussion will be consolidated in a brief report that will become available in the following weeks after the meeting, aimed at providing recommendations on how to improve implementation of Goal 16+, and drive improvements in democracy, human rights and good governance.

These recommendations will become the basis of further discussions with key stakeholders, including International IDEA and CoD Member States to help ensure an effective and a comprehensive approach to the implementation of SDG 16.

AGENDA

- 4:30-4:35 p.m.** Opening by **Thomas Garrett**, Secretary General, Community of Democracies
- 4:35-4:45 p.m.** Keynote by **Irene Khan**, Director-General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO) - **TBC**
- 4:45-6:00 p.m.** **Multi-stakeholder Panel: SDG 16+ Lessons learned in implementation, partnerships and the way forward**
- Moderator**
- **Massimo Tommasoli**, Permanent Observer to the UN, International IDEA
- Speakers**
- **Patricia Galdamez**, Senior Advisor, Community of Democracies
 - **Luis Consuegra**, Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy Coordinator, International IDEA
 - **David Steven**, Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation-NYU, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies - **TBC**
 - **John Romano**, Coordinator, Transparency, Accountability & Partnerships (TAP) Network - **TBC**
 - **Anselmo Lee**, member of Asia Democracy Network (ADN), Advisor to Asia Development Alliance and KOICA
- 6:00-6:30 p.m.** **Q&A**