



ECOSOC 
**Partnership
Forum**



2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

30 January 2024

SDG Action Segment

Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

04:15 PM – 05:15 PM,
Trusteeship Council Chamber,
UNHQ

Concept Note

Organized by **UNEP, UNESCO,
UNODC, UNDP, OHCHR, SDSN,
Volunteers Major Group, NGO
Major Group**



SDG Action Segment for Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

30 January 2024, 4:15 – 5:15 PM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Part of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Organizers

- Volunteers Stakeholder Group
- SDSN
- UNDP
- UNODC
- UNEP
- OHCHR
- UNESCO
- NGO Major Group

Background

The world is witnessing increasing insecurity with conflicts and violence erupting at an intensity that is having devastating effects on both people and the planet. The ongoing climate emergency, growing distrust in public institutions and multilateralism, and the fragility of the global economy are only adding fuel to the fire, intensifying insecurity for so many.

With only six years left in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are lagging. [A mere 15% of the SDGs are currently on track](#). Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is showing a particularly negative trend, whereby [human rights commitments are not being met, violence is increasing, the nature of conflict is evolving, inequality is hindering inclusive decision making, and corruption is eroding the social contract](#).

[Intentional homicide peaked in 2021. Trafficking in persons appears more hidden than before with an 11% deduction in the detection of victims between 2019-2020](#). In addition to the devastating personal consequences, the global economic impact of violence was \$17.5 trillion in 2022, the equivalent of 12.9 percent of global GDP, or \$2,200 per person.

In addition, [corruption continues to undermine the delivery of public services and poses serious challenges to environmental governance \(and particularly the environmental rule of law\), especially in developing countries](#). It also enables some of the most serious drivers of biodiversity loss, wildlife trafficking and deforestation.

Access to information is also a critical piece of SDG 16. It is critical for enabling citizens to exercise their voice to effectively monitor and hold their governments to account, including in the context of environmental matters. In 1990, only fourteen (14) countries had laws that specifically guaranteed the rights of citizens to access public information. In 2022, according to [UNESCO SDG 16.10.2 survey](#),

this number reached one hundred thirty-five (135) laws or regulatory frameworks, in 2023 two more countries adopted such laws. The increase is nearly tenfold, but the need to improve legal frameworks and especially their implementation is more vital than ever. In many cases, activists exercising their legally recognized rights of access to information and related rights to participate in public decision making are subjected to harassment and unlawful arrests. Threats and restrictions to civic space, [as well as attacks against human rights defenders](#), including environmental human rights defenders, is alarmingly high all around the world.

Environmental rule of law, for example, is essential for effective governance. It requires clear, science-informed, and culturally sensitive legal frameworks. Recent trends show integration and decentralization in environmental governance, with positive implications for environmental rule of law.

Despite recent efforts to monitor progress achieved to date, currently, SDG 16 is one of the SDGs with the least amount of data. [On average, across all SDG 16 targets, only 40 percent of countries have reported data for at least one year since 2015](#), limiting the information that could drive evidence-informed policies to accelerate progress towards SDG 16.

In the lead-up to the 2024 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), where SDG 16 is being reviewed, member states and the international community are encouraged to take accelerated action on peace, justice, and inclusion. SDG 16 stands as a cornerstone in this integrated framework, at a time when “structural injustices, inequalities, and emerging human rights challenges are putting peaceful and inclusive societies further out of reach.”

Objectives of the segment

- Galvanize momentum towards the implementation and acceleration of SDG 16 as an enabler across the 2030 Agenda in the lead up to the 2024 High-level Political Forum.
- Set the scene on progress and setbacks on SDG 16
- Demonstrate how concrete action on peace, justice, and inclusion can drive progress across the SDGs and strengthen multilateralism.
- Make recommendations for the Summit of the Future on Peace and Sustainable Development

Outcomes and outputs

Key messages and recommendations that can help scale up impactful SDG 16 focused multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Programme

Time	Item
04.15 – 04.20 PM	<p>Keynote Remarks: <u>H.E Mr. David Donoghue</u>, Former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations</p> <p><i>‘What’s Peace Got to do With It?’</i></p>
04.20 - 04.25 PM	<p><i>Overview of the State of SDG 16 and policy implications to enhance peace, justice and inclusion, <u>Mr. Marcos Neto</u>, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director for Policy and Programming, UNDP</i></p>
04.25 – 05.10 PM	<p>Panel discussion: <u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Delphine Schantz, Director of UNODC New York Liaison Office</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations • Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General, Communication and Information, UNESCO • Ms. Andrea Hernandez Gomez, Career Aid for Immigrant and Refugee Children (CAYFIR) • Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary General and Head of UNEP’s New York Office • Mr. Abdul Tejan Cole; African Centre of Excellence - Access to Justice; Board Member, Transparency, Accountability, and Participation Network
05.10 – 05.15 PM	<p>Concluding Remarks/Key Messages and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Presented</u> by Ms. Delphine Schantz

Resources

- [SDG Academy Courses on SDG 16, SSDN](#)
- [Global Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: A Wake-Up Call for Action on Peace, Justice and Inclusion](#), UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR, 2023
- [Crime-related illicit financial flows: latest progress](#), UNODC, 2023
- [Global Study on Homicide](#), UNODC, 2023
- [Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls \(Femicide/Feminicide\): Global Estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022](#), UNODC and UN Women, 2023

- [World Drug Report 2023](#), UNODC 2023
- [Statistical framework to measure corruption](#), UNODC 2023
- [Global prison population and trends – Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2023](#), UNODC 2023
- [Supporting the introduction of Temporary Special Measures \(TSMs\)](#) UNDP 2023
- [Building inclusive democracies: A guide to strengthening the participation of LGBTI+ persons in political and electoral processes](#) (2023)
- [Environmental Rule of Law Report: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions](#), UNEP, 2023
- [SDG 16.6.2: Understanding satisfaction with public services for more effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions](#), UNDP, 2023
- [Connections that Matter. How Does the Quality of Governance Institutions Help Protect our Ocean?](#) UNDP, IDOS, 2023
- [Call for Accelerated Action by 2025 to Prevent and End Child Trafficking](#), Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, 2023
- [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#), UNODC, 2022
- [Monitoring SDG 16 – a gender perspective](#), UNODC, 2022
- [Connections that Matter: How the Quality of Governance Institutions may be the Booster Shot we need to reduce Poverty and Inequality](#), UNDP, IDOS 2022
- [Promoting gender equity in the right of access to information](#), UNESCO, 2022
- [Access to information laws: a guarantee of inclusion and disability rights](#), UNESCO, 2022
- [Political Participation of Persons with Intellectual or Psychosocial Disabilities](#) (2021)
- [World Wildlife Crime Report 2020](#), UNODC, 2020

Additional information

For more information, please visit the webpage here: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/SDG-Action-Segment-Goal-16>

For any additional questions, please contact Ms. Priya Sood, priya.sood@undp.org