Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: SDG 16 implementation and the path towards leaving no one behind

27 – 29 May 2019
Rome, Italy

High-level roundtable: SDG 16 in the context of leaving no one behind

Date: 27 May 2019, 12:00 – 13:30

Description:

The 2030 Agenda envisages "a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination" and underscores the importance of equality and non-discrimination with the overarching commitment to 'leaving no one behind'.

In all countries, those who are most likely to be left behind are still least likely to benefit from good governance and the rule of law, while they experience the highest levels of violence and poverty. An integrated approach to the SDGs, emphasizes pertinent linkages between SDG 16 and the goals that strive for the end of poverty and inequality and access to health and education consistent with the 2030 Agenda commitment to "an equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met". There are several dedicated goals and targets that refers to combatting discrimination and inequalities, including, for instance, SDGs 1, 4 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17. Additionally, specific SDG indicators on laws, policies and actions address discrimination, violence and inequalities.

During this session, expert speakers will be asked to comment on strategies that take a human rights-based approach to SDG 16 implementation to 'leave no one behind,' and what may be the opportunities and challenges in identifying who is at risk of being left behind and why, examining the root causes for marginalization, exclusion, and discrimination.

Speakers will be asked to delve into the importance of identifying and advocating for changes in laws, policies and practices that will actively combat these root causes and structural obstacles.

The session will also explore how 'leaving no one behind' in the achievement of Goal 16 can also help to accelerate progress for marginalized and disadvantaged groups across all the SDGs. At the same time, recognizing and addressing the multiple and often intersecting layers of marginalization and discrimination can also help to achieve more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Objectives:

- To discuss how a strategic focus on human rights and a human rights-based approach to SDG 16 may be achieved given that the 2030 Agenda is linked in a mutually reinforcing way to the international, regional and national human rights standards.
- To share how efforts to meet the objectives of SDG 16 are being undertaken in a transformative way, addressing the root causes of marginalization, exclusion, and discrimination.
- To show how a 'leaving no one behind' approach towards SDG 16 implementation can help to accelerate progress for marginalized and disadvantaged groups across all SDGs as well as address

the multiple and often intersecting layers of marginalization and discrimination to achieve more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Key questions:

1) What are the key areas of progress, and areas of potential rapid acceleration?
2) What are the main challenges, particularly across specific issues, groups and regions?
3) How can we enhance data-driven monitoring and reporting processes to support evidence-based action?
4) What key interventions and policies can help ensure that "leaving no one behind" is understood in a way that is transformative?
5) How can we promote the inclusion of groups that are being left behind in the conversations about achieving SDG 16, at the global, regional and national level (e.g. through national development plans)?
6) How do countries report on progress on 'leaving no one behind'? In what way can the reporting on SDGs in general, and SDG 16, complement and draw on the processes and recommendations emerging out of the human rights monitoring mechanisms?

OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women, IDLO, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children SG-VAC and UNESCO have been facilitating the organization of this session.