



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

27 – 29 May 2019

Rome, Italy

Plenary roundtable: Reporting on SDG 16: Data gaps, challenges and opportunities

Date: 27 May 2019, 14:45 – 16:15

Description:

This session will address: challenges and gaps related to the reporting on goal 16 and ways to address these challenges, in terms of methodology, capacity development and partnerships.

The historic and unprecedented ambition in the 2030 Agenda for more inclusive, just and peaceful societies must be matched by an equally ambitious drive to ensure its implementation. Experience from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) shows that monitoring and reporting drives implementation – ‘What Gets Counted Counts’. Robust indicators (at national, regional and global levels) and quality data will to a large extent determine whether policy efforts are marshalled and the SDG 16 targets are achieved or missed. In addition, building integrated information systems that address peace, justice and inclusion in all its dimensions will provide a credible evidence base that can inform such policies, support advocacy and promote accountability. Implementation of the SDGs will therefore require an adequately resourced monitoring and accountability framework. This is particularly true for SDG 16.

At present, critical gaps continue to exist in terms of the coverage and the quality of data available on various targets under Goal 16. Major focus areas of Goal 16, such as conflict, organized crime (including trafficking in persons, cultural objects, and firearms), illicit financial flows, corruption, and public access to information remain largely unmeasured, or inadequately measured in national statistical systems. Further, data and statistics that are available on goal 16 often lack the granularity to assess gender disparities and typologies of problems to allow a better targeting of programmes and policies, and more broadly the ability to assess other marginalized groups (refugees, IDPs, migrants, disabled people, etc), which is important for operationalizing the principle of “leaving no one behind”. Gaps also exist in terms of facilitating coordination on data collection, and public access to information between national statistical systems and Right-to-Information (RTI) oversight bodies on issues of SDG reporting.

Strengthening statistical capacities towards capturing all these diverse yet interlinked aspects under Goal 16 in monitoring and reporting systems in a meaningful and comprehensive manner is the key challenge. Monitoring and reporting on SDG 16 requires well-coordinated, well-funded and complementary action at national, regional and global levels.

Way forward

Three action areas can improve the quality and availability of data to adequately monitor goal 16:

- 1) Development of common methodologies and standards to ensure the measurability and comparability of data that is reported.

- 2) Adequately resourced monitoring and accountability frameworks, data and statistics capacities for national systems, including for evidence based VNRs.
- 3) Partnerships with various stakeholders to strengthen national statistical systems.

This event will throw light on concrete success stories and examples from various sectors highlighting these challenges and ways forward.

Objectives:

- To discuss challenges and gaps related to the monitoring and reporting of goal 16.
- To explore ways to address these challenges, in terms of methodology/frameworks, capacity development and partnerships.

Key questions:

- 1) What are the main challenges, key areas of progress, and areas of potential rapid acceleration for data, monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+.
- 2) How can these challenges be addressed, and data- driven monitoring and reporting on Goal 16 be strengthened, inter alia through inclusion of SDG 16+ related issues in existing national data collection systems to establish a solid basis for the voluntary national reports that are presented to ECOSOC?
- 3) What innovative methodologies and partnerships, including the use of data, technology and expertise from the private sector, civil society and academia can be harnessed to strengthen national systems to track and report on progress related to targets under Goal 16?
- 4) What tools and support do member states require for strengthening disaggregated data availability, monitoring and reporting at a level that is helpful for design of policies and programs that leave no one behind?