



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

27 – 29 May 2019

Rome, Italy

Plenary roundtable: Addressing capacity needs and gaps towards SDG 16 implementation and follow up

Date: 29 May 2019, 9:00 – 10:30

Description:

To date, significant advancements have been made towards implementing SDG 16, but critical challenges remain – for national governments and a wide range of other stakeholders – to achieving this goal in its entirety.

In many countries, capacity needs and gaps represent a critical barrier to meaningful SDG 16 implementation and follow-up. These capacity issues are often, though not exclusively, felt by governments that are post-conflict, transitioning out of conflict, fragile, or LDC. Additionally, civil society in many countries are often underutilized as key players for accelerating progress around SDG 16, particularly in places that lack overall capacity to consult and engage with stakeholders outside of official consultation processes. As a result of these and other challenges, overall implementation and follow-up/review efforts around SDG 16 may fall short of meeting pre-stated objectives, including ensuring that no one is left behind.

Given the diversity of issues within SDG 16, identifying where critical capacity gaps exist remains a complex and difficult puzzle to solve. Key issues that could be covered in this session include, but are not limited to: 1) weak institutions and service delivery; 2) trust deficits and lack of partnerships across sectors; 3) lack of bridges and links between formal and informal processes and institutions; and 4) the shrinking of civic space, curtailing of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and undermining of credibility of independent institutions.

This session will examine: 1) capacity-development challenges for accelerating progress in the SDG 16 space, 2) existing work and best practices to address these capacity gaps, and 3) recommendations to all stakeholders on ways to strengthen capacity-building efforts with regards to SDG 16.

The roundtable will address the following questions during the session:

- 1) How can strengthening capacities—particularly at the national and local levels—help us ensure adequate implementation, follow-up and accountability on SDG 16, and the 2030 Agenda more broadly?
- 2) What are some of the primary and urgent capacity needs and gaps of governments and other stakeholder groups around SDG 16? And how can those gaps be filled?
- 3) How have governments and stakeholders already begun to address capacity building challenges around SDG 16?

Objectives:

- Examine gaps, challenges and needs for additional capacity development support around SDG 16, particularly from within governments, civil society and other stakeholders.
- Highlight effective efforts underway to support capacity development for SDG 16 – including the development of capacity-building resources and tools; coordination of capacity-building workshops and trainings at regional, national, and local levels; and convenings and consultations that facilitate multi-stakeholder exchange and learning.
- Provide impetus for additional multi-stakeholder commitments, including around funding and other capacity development opportunities

Key questions:

- 1) What are the main challenges, key areas of progress, and areas of potential rapid acceleration of strengthened capacity building on SDG 16?
- 2) How can we enhance data-driven monitoring and reporting processes to support evidence-based action?
- 3) What key interventions and policies can help us ensure that no one is left behind?
- 4) How can governments and stakeholders collaborate in promoting capacity building for SDG 16 implementation?
- 5) What types of partnerships—both cross-sectoral and bilateral/multilateral—would be needed to support implementation of SDG 16 (i.e. increasing South-South cooperation, further collaboration with civil society, etc.)?

TAP Network, and 16+ Forum have been facilitating the organization of this session