



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

27 – 29 May 2019

Rome, Italy

Session C3: Promoting enabling environments for participation, transparency and access to information

Date: 28 May 2019, 14:00 – 15:45

Description:

SDG 16 underscores the human rights principle of participation, stressing the need for responsive, inclusive and effective governments. Ensuring participation and inclusiveness in decision-making adds a procedural dimension to the principle of “leaving no one behind”, by ensuring that those left behind have a voice in government decisions that affect them.

This session will look into the elements required to create enabling environments that foster participation and partnerships, including discussing tools and approaches that may facilitate stronger civic space for journalists, trade unionists, human rights advocates, etc., as well as access to information.

As people-centered service delivery is critical across all the SDGs: from accessing education and health, to reducing inequality, to ensuring security, justice and the rule of law, the session will assess the role of transparency and access to information as conditions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a whole. In particular, it will examine the role of Right-to-Information (RTI) oversight bodies in SDG processes at national level and existing methodologies to measure progress on access to information.

The session will discuss and review progress, challenges and good practices with regards to SDG Target 16.10 and stakeholder engagement for SDG 16 implementation and follow up, while suggesting areas of improvement and synergies with other targets and goals.

Objectives:

- To highlight the importance of participation and pinpoint the elements of an enabling environment.
- To discuss and review progress, challenges and good practices with regards to SDG 16.10 and stakeholder engagement for SDG 16 implementation and follow up.
- To strategize on how to strengthen the interlinkages between ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms with the implementation of all other SDGs.

Key questions:

- 1) What are the main challenges and key areas of progress?
- 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? What are the required elements of an enabling environment and what is the strategy to ensure all main stakeholders are involved in SDG16 monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including in VNR processes?
- 4) What needs to be done to strengthen regional responses to the reporting ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms?
- 5) How can access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole? How can the implementation of the 2030 Agenda supports access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms?

UNESCO and OHCHR have been facilitating the organization of this session