



## Peace, justice and inclusive societies for Sustainable Development

Monday, 6 May 2024

United Nations Headquarters, New York



### SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024 Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

#### CONCEPT NOTE

#### **SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024**

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) are convening the **SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024**. The High-Level Conference will take place on 6 May at the UN Headquarters in New York, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024 will bring together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, women, youth and other key stakeholders. Building on the outcomes of previous four editions, the Conference will provide a political and substantive platform for engagement on SDG 16, foster the sharing of experiences and the identification of good practices that can support the acceleration of progress towards SDG 16.

The Conference will also examine the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other goals and identify measures to foster integrated action in support of the transition to a more sustainable future, further promoting SDG 16's key role as enabler and accelerator of all the other Sustainable Development Goals.

After four previous successful editions of the Conference in Rome, this year's High-Level edition in New York is directly connected to the **in-depth review of SDG 16 at the High-Level Political Forum 2024 in July**. It also aims at bringing this official preparatory Conference closer to the HLPF and to other key multilateral processes, including the Summit of the Future to be held in September 2024. The Conference will be convened in the framework of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), under whose auspices the HLPF will take place.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024 are to:

- Provide an inclusive platform for political engagement on SDG 16 implementation;
- Review progress made on SDG 16 by shedding light on trends, challenges, and opportunities for accelerating action in all dimensions of SDG 16, while also considering relevant interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs in the current context of multiple, intersecting crises;
- Raise awareness and interest in the international community about the key role of SDG 16 in enabling and supporting progress on all the SDGs; and
- Provide substantive inputs to the review of SDG 16 progress at HLPF 2024 and inform the preparations for the Summit of the Future.

## **Format**

The SDG 16 High-Level Conference 2024 will be a one-day meeting, consisting of:

- A high-level opening session;
- Four interactive panel sessions, each focusing on a different dimension of SDG 16;
- The presentation of the updated Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG 16+; and
- A closing session.

It is expected that the Conference will feature between 25 and 30 lead speakers and several hundred participants. Member States and stakeholders will intervene interactively during each panel, within the allocated time indicated in the programme.

The Conference will be in-person only. It will be webcast on UN Web TV.

## **Outcome of the Conference**

The main messages and key recommendations from the Conference will be consolidated into a short outcome document, which will be prepared and submitted by the co-organizers as an input to the HLPF through appropriate channels, and which will also inform the process towards the Summit of the Future. A substantive report of the Conference will be also issued. In keeping with the tradition of past SDG 16 Conferences, it is also foreseen that civil society will present an updated “civil society declaration on SDG 16+” during the event.

## **Participation and organization**

In line with previous editions, the High-Level Conference will bring together speakers and participants including Ministers and other officials from Member States and international organizations, as well as experts and practitioners working on SDG 16 among civil society, think tanks, academia, youth and women leaders. Attendance will be open to all UN Permanent Missions in New York and to registered stakeholder participants.

## **Languages and documentation**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the UN, namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The documentation for the Conference will be in English and will be available online through the Conference website.

## **Background**

SDG 16 encompasses targets related to peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, access to justice, fight against corruption and organized crime and effective, transparent and accountable institutions. SDG 16 is a fundamental prerequisite to progress towards sustainable development, as well as an enabler of all other SDGs.

SDG 16 will be reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2024, along with SDGs 1, 2, 13 and 17. The theme of HLPF 2024 is “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. The HLPF will provide a platform to review progress on the 2030 Agenda, build on the outcomes of the SDG Summit held in September 2023, and identify ways to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs. In September 2024, the Summit of the Future will aim to spur advances on matters that have strong connections with SDG 16, including future generations, digitalization and social contracts.

Since 2019, the Government of Italy has hosted four global SDG 16 Conferences co-organized with UNDESA and IDLO. Over the years, the Conferences have provided a global platform for all SDG 16 stakeholders – including governments, civil society, the UN system and intergovernmental organizations and academia – to address the transformative contribution that SDG 16 can make in accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcomes of the Conferences have informed reviews of progress at the HLPF.

There is significant interest in the SDG 16+ Community in continuing to regularly take stock of trends, challenges, and opportunities in the various dimensions of SDG 16, as well as promoting its role as a key enabler of SDG implementation.