



# SDG 16 CONFERENCE

## Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



### SDG 16 Conference 2025

## Advancing Peace, Justice and Institutions for Sustainable Development

Monday, 12 May 2025

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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### DRAFT AGENDA AND GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. High-Level Opening
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Panel 1: Stocktaking progress on SDG 16: Assessing achievements and challenges.
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Presentation of the updated Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG 16+
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch break
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Panel 2: The business case for investment in peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Panel 3: The way forward: Leveraging SDG 16 to accelerate progress on shared priorities in line with the Pact for the Future and other multilateral agreements and processes.
- 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closing of the conference.

## **Panel descriptions and guiding questions**

### **Panel 1: Stocktaking progress on SDG 16: Assessing achievements and challenges**

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), focusing on peace, the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions, is crucial for sustainable development. However, recent progress on its targets has been slow, exacerbated by intersecting global crises, including declining trust in public institutions, rising conflicts, and ongoing challenges to justice, accountability and human rights. In the context of the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and with just five years remaining to 2030, it is essential to address critical gaps and emerging areas that demand urgent attention. The renewed focus on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, as well as on effective and accountable institutions highlighted in the 2024 Pact for the Future calls for a thorough assessment of progress. This panel will examine key trends, emerging challenges and opportunities across the various dimensions of SDG 16, underscoring its central role in enabling the broader implementation of the SDGs.

#### **Guiding questions:**

1. With five years left on the 2030 Agenda, which areas of SDG 16 have seen the most progress and setbacks in recent years?
2. What measures can effectively sustain advancements and address regressions?
3. What opportunities exist to strengthen the interlinkages between SDG 16 and the other SDGs, and advance progress on the 2030 Agenda?

### **Panel 2: The business case for investment in peaceful, just and inclusive societies**

Investing in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies can bring long-term social and economic benefits, strengthen institutions and build public trust. This panel will showcase concrete examples of how investing in SDG 16 has driven positive impacts at the national level, including fostering inclusive economic growth and inclusion. Examples of entry points will include conflict prevention and peacebuilding, expanding access to justice, enhancing the effectiveness of institutions, strengthening transparency and accountability, combatting corruption, and enhancing equality for women and girls. Participants will gain insights into how efforts to promote and invest in SDG 16 are essential for building resilient societies and accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Guiding questions:**

1. What is the business case for prioritizing political and financial support investment in SDG 16?
2. What are some concrete ways in which investments in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, rule of law and public administration and public institutions drive long-term social and economic benefits?
3. What are the key challenges and opportunities for securing greater financial support for SDG 16 in national budgets and development assistance and are there examples of relevant innovative solutions?

**Panel 3: The way forward: Leveraging SDG 16 to accelerate progress on shared priorities in line with the Pact for the Future and other multilateral agreements and processes**

Different dimensions of SDG 16 play a crucial role in supporting intergovernmental processes such as the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+4), and the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD2). For instance, transparency and accountability (16.7), anticorruption measures (16.5), and efforts to tackle illicit financial flows (16.4) are essential for ensuring that financing is used efficiently and equitably. In turn, non-discriminatory laws and policies (16.b), access to justice (16.3), reducing violence (16.1 and 16.2), promoting responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making (16.7), ensuring legal identity for all (16.9), along with access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10), are key to fostering the just and inclusive societies that are central to WSSD2. This panel will focus on how SDG 16 can contribute to advancing these critical intergovernmental processes.

**Guiding questions:**

1. How can leveraging SDG 16 at the international level help accelerate progress on shared global priorities, as reflected in the Pact for the Future and other multilateral agreements?
2. Which dimensions of SDG 16 are most relevant to intergovernmental processes in 2025, such as the Financing for Development, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the World Summit for Social Development?
3. What are the best entry points for leveraging SDG 16 to effectively inform and support these processes?