

TBILISI, GEORGIA  
OUTCOME DOCUMENT

# 2017 ANNUAL SHOWCASE



Sixteen  
Plus Forum



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The conference was co-organized and supported in partnership with the Government of Georgia, including the Administration of Georgia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Government of Sweden, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the United Nations Development Programme, USAID, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Austrian Development Agency, as well as Tetra Tech ARD and local civil society partners, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and the United Nations Association of Georgia.

The 16+ Forum is comprised of 10 Member States, the g7+ and WFUNA.

A partnership and a platform, the 16+ Forum is comprised of the Member States of Australia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Tunisia, the g7+ and WFUNA as its Secretariat.

The Permanent Mission of Australia joined the 16+ Forum in the spring of 2018 and after the inaugural Annual Showcase.

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# FOREWORD



Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in the 16+ Forum and its inaugural Annual Showcase held in Tbilisi, Georgia. Given its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) and its current role as the government Chair of the Open Government Partnership, Tbilisi provided a particularly timely and interesting setting for this inaugural event—not to mention a beautiful city.

The goal of the Annual Showcase is to do exactly that—provide a platform to showcase solutions, successes and challenges in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In all, over twenty-five countries were represented from all regions of the world.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 is one component of an indivisible and integrated 2030 Agenda. As such, we also tried to demonstrate SDG 16+ in practice—how its implementation supports that of other Sustainable Development Goals and vice versa, as well as its links to other frameworks and agendas. As the saying goes, there can be no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development without peace.

From a global and diverse set of representatives from governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the UN, this gathering provided a space to break down barriers and bring together all communities, tribes, ships and galaxies involved in SDG 16+. We would like to thank all who participated and offered their experience and insights.

We hope that you view this document as a living resource and find it useful in your work ahead. Achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies is an ambitious goal. Yet through our collective efforts—from intergovernmental cooperation to multi-stakeholder and global partnerships, we will continue in our pursuit of its realization and that of the larger 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With thanks,

H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze  
Permanent Representative of Georgia  
to the United Nations

Mr. Bonian Golmohammadi  
Secretary-General of the World Federation  
of United Nations Associations

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



From the rule of law to participatory decision-making, violence reduction and the promotion of peace, Sustainable Development Goal 16 offers a transformative component of an indivisible and interdependent 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As there can be no peace without development, there can be no development without peace. The following is an attempt to articulate SDG 16+ in practice—in policy, programming and the issues embedded therein.

From anti-corruption reforms, regulatory assessments, e-governance, and laws of political parity, to youth-driven policy, the importance of language and the need to translate global frameworks for national priorities, the following document attempts to capture the key solutions, tools and policy take-aways highlighted at the Annual Showcase, amidst persistent challenges.

Consistent across the various issues, solutions and challenges discussed were the following key take-aways: the need for inclusion in process, policy and practice; the importance of national and local ownership; a call to identify what already works and increase coordination across ministries and stakeholders; the critical value of partnerships and meaningful engagement with all segments of society, particularly with civil society and data as a means of measuring and driving progress. Further, and against a background of various UN reform agendas and frameworks, the need to draw out and act upon those interlinkages for scale and sustainable impact was highlighted. The 2019 High-level Political Forum, at which SDG 16 will be reviewed among others, provides an opportunity to take stock of progress made in implementation and the additional steps needed in moving towards 2030.

With Georgia as host, initial focus was placed on the “just societies” component of SDG 16 and its anti-corruption, good governance and rule of law efforts.

## SDG 16



To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Specific targets, indicators and means of implementation included in appendix.

Beyond SDG 16, **16+** includes SDG 16 interlinkages to the 2030 Agenda, as mutually interdependent and reinforcing, and its links to other agendas, including Sustaining Peace.





## INTRODUCTION +

In today's interconnected world, the Sustainable Development Goals are critical for achieving a better future for each and every citizen across the globe. What unites us in the 16+ Forum is a strong conviction that SDG 16 is key for delivering sustainable development.

—Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia,  
H.E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze

Bringing together over 150 participants from 27 countries, the 16+ Forum's inaugural Annual Showcase in Tbilisi, Georgia set out to demonstrate what advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies can, and has, meant across countries and contexts. This multi-day gathering provided an opportunity for governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to share lessons learned and innovative solutions for implementing SDG 16 and SDG 16+.

Loosely following the agenda of the Tbilisi Annual Showcase, this report is organized around the components of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In addressing each component, national and sub-national solutions have been brought to the fore. As such, policy and programming at the national and local level were highlighted, along with partnerships across stakeholders and interlinkages throughout the 2030 Agenda and to other frameworks, such as Sustaining Peace.



menting SDG 16+  
Local and International Level

In looking towards the 2019 High-Level Political Forum as a benchmark towards 2030 and beyond, this report seeks to support all initiatives working towards SDG 16+. It should be viewed as one of many resources to draw upon in our collective efforts towards the delivery and promise of SDG 16+, in particular for those “left furthest behind.”

The 16+ Forum is a partnership and platform of ten member states, including Australia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Tunisia, the g7+ and with WFUNA as its Secretariat. (Please note that Australia joined the 16+ Forum after the inaugural Annual Showcase).

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# PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE, THE RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

## THE GEORGIAN EXPERIENCE

As the host of the inaugural Annual Showcase, initial discussions built upon Georgia’s experience since independence, particularly the progress made on good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption. In the past five years, Georgia has climbed international rankings in transparency, openness, inclusive governance and e-governance. As Chair of the Open Government Partnership (2017-2018), overlap between SDG 16 and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) has further advanced nationalization of the 2030 Agenda, as well as priorities related to both, including effective and accountable institutions.

## DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS FOR JUST SOCIETIES

- + 16.3 Rule of Law and Access to Justice
- + 16.4 Illicit Financial Flows, Stolen Assets and Organized Crime
- + 16.5 Corruption and Bribery
- + 16.9 Legal Identity

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## SOLUTIONS

- + Rule of Law and Anti-corruption Reforms
- + E-governance, Citizen Engagement and Real-time Data
- + Innovation in Public Service Delivery
- + Leveraging Complimentary Agendas

### 1) RULE OF LAW AND ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORMS—PURSUING A PACKAGE DEAL

In a post-revolution, state-building context, a series of reforms fundamentally changed the institutional structure of Georgian jurisdiction—from the creation of self-governing municipalities and communities to legal aid services, and from pre-trial detention to an overall improvement in trial quality. Judicial reform focused on increasing the independence, accountability and strength of judges. Prosecutorial reform has aimed to increase the independence of the Prosecutor's Office.

Specific examples include the Civil Service Law (2015). This law, which emphasizes merit-based recruitment and promotion, is a by-product of the 2013 Civil Service

Reform, an inclusive and participatory process involving government representatives, academics, civil society, international partners and donors. As of January 2017, every public official asset declaration is subject to monitoring by independent bodies such as the Civil Service Bureau.

Other examples include: the Anti-Trafficking Law (2006), the Anti-Discrimination Law (2014) and the Law on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Public Service (2015). A Freedom of Information Law is anticipated, which will regulate all aspects of freedom of information and increase access to public information.

### 2) INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY: PUBLIC SERVICE HALLS

In bridging the divide between citizens and government, increasing service delivery and reducing corruption, Public Service Halls provide a one-stop-shop with more than 400 services for citizens and foreigners. Rather than bottlenecking the process, Public Service Halls and their village counter-parts, known as Community Centers, provide a singular location to obtain a driver's license, marriage certificate, property registration or a cup of coffee.

- Nineteen Public Service Halls and nearly 50 Community Centers exist across Georgia.
- Front and back offices are separated, and citizens do not interact with the back office to minimize the risk of bribery. (Public Service Halls and Community Centers serve as front offices to the back office agencies that are responsible for developing public services).

### 3) E-GOVERNANCE, CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND REAL-TIME DATA

Real-time data about citizens' satisfaction with public service delivery is collected in order to understand their needs. The Georgian Parliament is working to better

access information by establishing an interactive and innovative online mechanism by which individuals can remotely submit comments on draft legislation.

### 4) LEVERAGING COMPLIMENTARY AGENDAS—2030, OGP AND THE SDGS COUNCIL

In order to achieve many of these gains, Georgia pursued a comprehensive approach to integrating the 2030 Agenda into national priorities, including a policy planning process. From national human rights strategies to public administration reforms, the realization and ownership of the SDGs has wholly impacted governments and governance in Georgia, leading to greater coordination across sectors and the SDGs National Council. This Council is composed

of public agencies, UN and EU representation in Georgia and civil society organizations—though civil society does not have voting rights.

Ownership is achieved through horizontal intervention across ministries and stakeholders. Furthermore, integration of the SDG indicators overlaps and strengthens other priority areas such as the EU-Georgia Association Agenda<sup>2</sup>, the national human rights



strategy, public administration reform and other sectoral reforms. Synergies between the OGP and the SDGs have helped to push both agendas, while an electronic monitoring system is being developed, in cooperation with the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), to track the

progress of different government agencies in SDG implementation.

While many challenges remain, particularly in terms of decentralization and implementation at the municipal level, the government and public administration continue in their reform efforts.

## VIEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Four billion people, half of the global population, live outside the protection of the law. In keeping with the flagship theme but beyond Georgia, insight was shared on how to improve access to justice and reduce corruption, with SDG 16 as an opportunity for change. Regardless of context, common challenges voiced involved: maintaining the political will to reform, rebuilding trust between government actors, civil society organizations and the public, and linking national policy changes with local-level policy and impact.

## SOLUTIONS

- + Commissions
- + Institutional Assessments
- + Legal Aid and Community-level Access to Justice
- + E-governance Portals
- + Civil Service Reform and the Media





## THE DIFFERENCE OF AN ID CARD

Haja from Kenya repeatedly tried to get an ID-card for more than 8 years. She is one of five million people in Kenya who face challenges in this process.

Without an ID-card, she could not get a job, apply for a bank loan, or enroll in university, effectively excluded from participating fully in society. Yet, through a paralegal in her community who helped her with the process, documentation and advocacy, she finally received her ID.

Her next step: applying for birth-registrations for her children so they can go to school.

## 1) COMMISSIONS

### CICIG, Guatemala

Operating for over a decade in cooperation with four democratically-elected governments, the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) is an internationally-supported investigative body that prosecutes cases in Guatemalan courts<sup>3</sup>. Requested by Guatemala, CICIG has a hybrid mandate. It was authorized by the government and the U.N. Secretary-General, working within the justice system and with national prosecutors, to dismantle criminal structures, including mafia networks, fight corruption and combat impunity. In contrast with other international mechanisms, CICIG is an independent investigative entity that operates under Guatemalan law, producing mixed results at times.

Despite an increase in power and capacity, CICIG has faced challenges in jurisdiction and scope. To be successful, it requires both international and national support, as well as close cooperation with Guatemalan authorities.

In addition to anti-corruption, CICIG addresses target 16.9 on providing legal identity for all. Without legal identity, children cannot access health or education services, and adults cannot participate in political life and are forced to work in informal markets. In short, individuals are systematically denied access to their human rights, highlighting interlinkages between SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda, as well as to other international priorities and agendas.

CICIG's mandate ends in 2019. Going forward, it will be critical to ensure the transfer of its functions for the institutional sustainability of ongoing investigations and procedures. Regardless of the Commission's future, its capability and capacity need to remain within national institutions, as it carries out its constitutional role.

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Sierra Leone

Following its decade-long civil war, the Sierra Leonean government established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2002. In its concluding report<sup>4</sup>, the Commission noted that "while there were many factors, both internal and external, that explain the cause of the civil war...it was years of bad governance, endemic corruption and the denial of basic human rights that created the deplorable conditions that made conflict inevitable." For Sierra Leoneans, access to justice and good governance has been critical to the country's transition.

A series of reforms were subsequently introduced with a focus on justice, the rule of law and human rights, including the Human Rights Commission, (established in 2006 and made operational in 2007), and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Established in 2000, and amended in 2008, the ACC is the only Commission in West Africa that has the power to prosecute. The ACC also spurred the creation of the Asset Declaration System.

Further reforms and legislation stemming from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission include the establishment of a Legal Aid Board (2012) addressed subsequently, the Right to Access Information Law (2013) and an Open Data Portal (2015). Established to improve access to public services, the Open Data Portal is also part of Sierra Leone's OGP Action Plan.

## 2) LEGAL AID BOARDS, COMMUNITY PARALEGALS, AND INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

### Legal Aid Board, Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board was formed in 2012, with a mandate to strengthen access to formal and informal courts. The Board assists through the provision of legal representation and advice, the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism for non-criminal cases, informal court monitoring and legal education through community-based outreach. Ultimately, the objective is to provide legal counsel and community paralegals in all local courts, while establishing citizens' community advice bureaus. Human rights clinics and civic education in universities are further intended to build community capacity in understanding the legal landscape, so that individuals can better advocate for themselves.

Since July 2017, the Board has held over 30 consultative meetings with community stakeholders in working towards crime avoidance and preventative mechanisms. Nearly 6,000 marginalized individuals, including young people, have received legal assistance and over 1,000 cases have been resolved through the ADR mechanism. Offices have been established in at least 8 of Sierra Leone's 16 districts, with 41 paralegals and at least 2 present in each district.

Despite challenges and inconsistent implementation, out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission came constitutional reform, open government reforms, anti-corruption institutions and empowerment of grassroots efforts around access to justice.

### Legal Aid Act, Kenya

In Kenya, community paralegals and lawyers, supported by organizations such as Namati, recently helped to pass the first Legal Aid Act (2016), formally recognizing paralegals as a link to legal aid services for citizens. Since then, Kenya has passed several acts, such as the Access to Information Act, which are in line with SDG targets and matrixes.

The SDGs have helped to bring together paralegals and government officials working on legal reform and access to justice. Further, toolkits such as *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs*<sup>5</sup> by the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network for the 2030 Agenda provide a resource for activists and practitioners working to promote legal empowerment and access to justice at grassroots and national levels.

Informal and community-based dispute resolution mechanisms can further address shortcomings of weakened, destroyed or previously exclusive formal justice systems. Conflict-affected countries, in particular, often inherit pluralist systems of justice including formal and informal, with various mechanisms at the community level to fill in the gaps. Formal and informal justice systems, therefore, need to be integrated in reconciliation and accountability procedures, with a bottom-up approach to legal empowerment. This could also help to influence SDG implementation at a national level.

## 3) INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENTS (ANTI-CORRUPTION AND REGULATORY IMPACT)

### The Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA), Republic of Korea

Established in 2002, the AIA is an annual exercise by which over 250 public institutions self-evaluate

implementation of anti-corruption measures and mechanisms in accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (the ACRC Act). The ACRC Act provides



indicators and implementation channels for priority actions across government and public institutions, including universities and hospitals. Details of the indicators are shared with target institutions early in the year, with an accompanying scoring guide and self-reporting template.

Of the 41 possible indicators, examples include: the development of institutional codes of conduct and anti-corruption plans; the number of staff designated for anti-corruption work and the number of internal corruption cases detected; performance bonuses for staff contributing to increased organizational ranking, whistle-blower protection and reward mechanisms.

To strengthen implementation, lessons learned include:

- Practical and easy-to-follow guidelines with anti-corruption trainings for employees
- Consistent timelines on an annual basis, deduction points for late or long reports
- Galvanizing leadership through publicizing results, scores and institutional rankings
- Motivation and encouragement for all to generate pride and incentive

- Start simple; if too much is asked of officials, initiatives may not work or backfire

Every January, the AIA releases the previous year's results to the public and media. ACRC then provides consulting services to underperforming institutions, while awarding champions with overseas trainings, for example.

#### Regulatory Impact Assessments

Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA) provide information on the potential cost, administrative burden and effectiveness of proposed regulations. This includes impact on the economy and societal welfare, and is applicable to a variety of sectors, including the Criminal Justice Sector.

In 2009, the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) was requested by the Zambian Ministry of Justice to work with the Criminal Justice Sector to help improve communication, coordination and cooperation across the sector and its five key institutions: police, national prosecution, the legal aid board, the judiciary and the correctional service. Out of this, the Communication, Cooperation and Coordination Initiative (CCCI) was launched with chapters at the

provincial level to provide platforms bringing institutions and civil society together. By 2010, fifteen CCCI chapters had been introduced at government, provincial and district levels.

The impact of this local-level initiative was far reaching, emphasizing "leave no one behind" and the importance

of the individual; intergovernmental cooperation, coordination and utilizing what already works, and civil society engagement. In Choma, for example, the capital of a southern province in Zambia, the average number of inmates in the correctional facility was brought down by 16%, from about 400 to 330 persons.

#### 4) E-GOVERNANCE PORTALS

##### Egov.am and DataLex, Armenia

In Armenia, an e-governance portal (Egov.am) assists in obtaining government services (such as licenses for properties and businesses) and aims to increase citizen participation in public services by soliciting citizen opinion on the drafts of legal acts and relevant discussions online. Through DataLex, an online database linked to the Federal Judiciary's website, all government court cases and spending is available in an easily downloadable, open data format. Launched in 2008, DataLex provides a budgetary tool that allows the user to search how

much the government spends on a given issue. Civil society organizations also have the option to rank judges based on pre-determined indicators, which provides an incentive for judges to improve their performance.

In making the site user-friendly, smart search technology relies on everyday language rather than legal terms, gives the user suggestions based on case information, provides symbols to help distinguish between case types, includes infographics and places precedent-setting cases at the top of any given search.

#### 5) CIVIL SERVICE REFORM AND THE MEDIA AS A 21ST CENTURY WATCHDOG

In the 1850s, a series of public administration reforms introduced in Sweden, now referred to as the Big Bang Model, fundamentally changed the meaning of civil service. From being a good that could be bought or owned, it became a job or career to be attained through competition and merit. As a byproduct, corruption and nepotism significantly decreased.

Presently, accessing public servant information is straightforward and facilitated by law. Yet, corruption

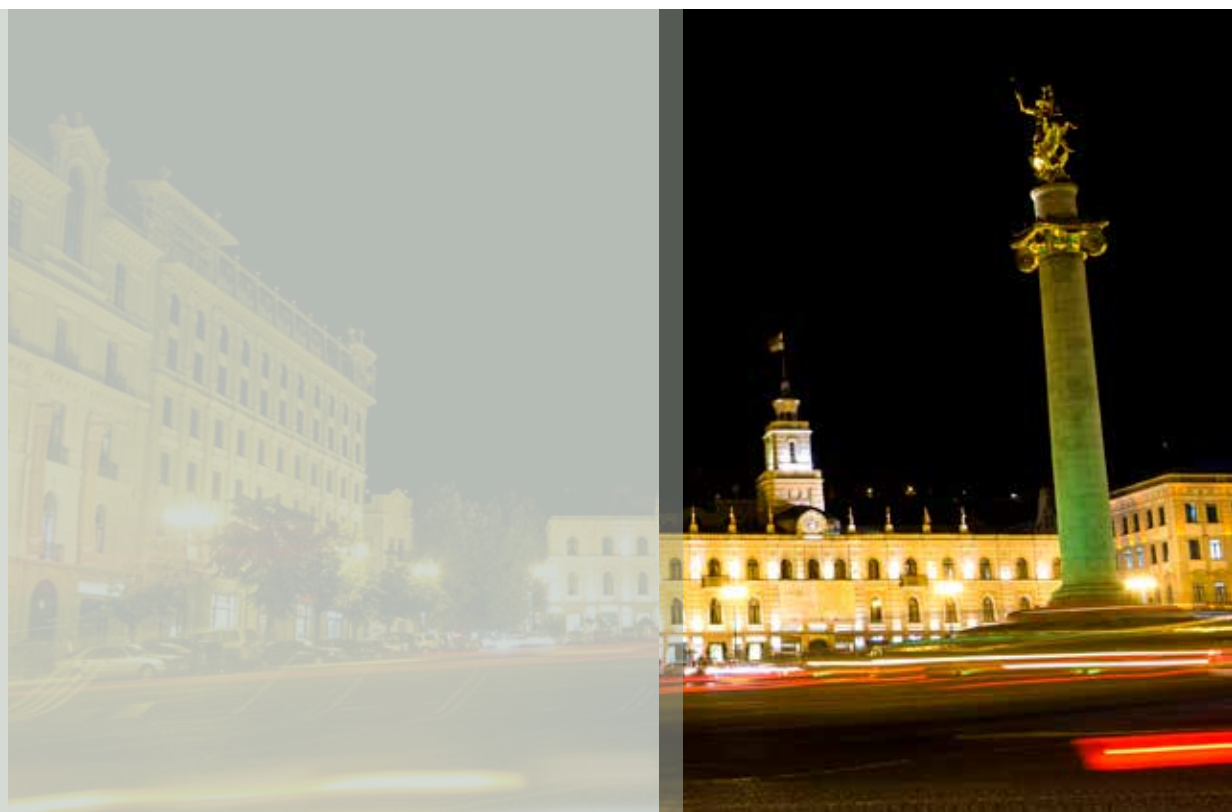
persists. Swedish businesses have been accused of bribing public officials abroad, and public officials in Sweden have accepted bribes for contracts and been found guilty of nepotism. As a check, media is critical to maintaining openness and the fight against corruption. To this end, freedom of communication by public officials to the media is protected by law and can be done anonymously (not withstanding state secrets), with specific programs established to curb self-censorship.

#### GOING FORWARD

In pursuing good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption, key take-aways include:

- Align and maximize SDG 16+ related policies already in place; inter-governmental coordination is critical
- Adapt international policy frameworks and justice systems to national and local contexts; there is no "one size fits all" policy or program, for state or non-state actors

- Pursue policies that foster organizational cultural shifts across bureaucracies, civil society organizations and individuals
- Build citizen engagement and trust through user-friendly and informative e-governance mechanisms and open data





# STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES



With rapidly evolving democratization trends worldwide, citizens and individuals are calling for greater involvement and influence in decision-making processes in national and local governance. Yet, there is also a competing trend for governments to become more closed and repressive of civic space, opposing views and peaceful dissent.

## DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

- + 16.6 Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions
- + 16.8 Participation in Global Governance
- + 16.7 Inclusive and Participatory Decision-Making
- + 16.10 Access to Information

For countries in or coming out of conflict, building sustainable and representative institutions may be more challenging as citizens may not remember, or have known, life under a functioning national state.

Focused on challenges and solutions in pursuing inclusive and participatory democracies and a strengthened social contract, expertise and insight focused on inclusion as reflected in effective institutions and steps to (re)build the relationship between governments and its citizens at national and local levels.



## REFLECTING INCLUSION THROUGH EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

Institutions can be assessed by their structure and representation of those they are designed to serve. As such, particular attention was paid to women and youth. When women are included in peace processes, the chances of agreement and durable peace improve significantly<sup>6</sup>. More women in office leads to greater economic advantages, and in the past twenty years, women have more than doubled their global parliamentary participation. However, at 23% globally, equal representation remains distant. Young people number 1.8 billion worldwide. Despite often facing systematic and structural exclusion, the vast majority is peaceful, with many acting as active agents of peace. Their inclusion is a critical component to realizing SDG 16+.

### SOLUTIONS

- + Quotas and Political Parity
- + Network Mobilization/Advocacy
- + Day-to-day Behavioral Change
- + Addressing the Trust Deficit
- + Youth-led Accountability and Decision-Making

### 1) QUOTAS, POLITICAL PARITY AND NETWORK MOBILIZATION/ADVOCACY

#### Affirmative Action Bill, Ghana

In 2016, the Ghanaian Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection introduced the Affirmative Action Bill and organized dialogues on "Promoting Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Through Affirmative Action". The law would propose legal structures and

policies to advance equal participation and institute a 40% quota for women in public service and governance.

In many ways, this bill was the result of a three-year study conducted by the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Center to understand the shortage of women in politics.

#### The study identified five key barriers:

- + a lack of monitoring barriers that blocked women from entering politics
- + traditional beliefs and norms that depict women as inferior to men
- + a lack of awareness about women's rights and contributions
- + to development
- + political parties actively discouraging women from participating
- + government processes and programs that exclude women's issues

Proposed remedies from the study included: political party quotas and the establishment of a coalition within government to mobilize, educate and increase the participation of women.

The Women in Law and Development in Africa, a pan-African women's rights group, helped to promote the law. Since 2010, this group, in cooperation with women's organizations in Ghana have established 28 Coalitions of Women in Governance groups and training programs through which more than 600 women were trained during the first 5 years. While the Affirmative Action Bill has yet to be passed, Ghana continues to work towards increased gender inclusion.

17% to 46%, and in French Polynesia from 12% to 48%. New Caledonia has one of the highest rates of female participation in parliament, and a higher position on the United Nations Human Development Index in comparison to several other Pacific Island states with lower levels of gender parity in parliament. Such laws may also provide a mechanism for women to pivot from community leadership roles to national political roles.

#### The Law on Gender Parity in Politics, New Caledonia

In certain Pacific Island States, parity laws have required that political parties include 50% of women on their lists of candidates in the first round of parliamentary elections. They also require that the lists alternate one man and one woman from top to bottom of the list. As a result of these parity laws, the percentage of female parliament members increased in New Caledonia from

#### Gender Equality Councils, Georgia

In Georgia, gender equality and anti-discrimination laws, along with Gender Equality Councils in every municipality, promote women's rights and incentivize female participation in political parties. While only 16% of parliament is comprised of women, this is a five-percentage point increase from the last election in 2016.

### 2) CREATING THE SPACE FOR DAY-TO-DAY BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

#### Yukatsu Initiative and Keidanren (Business Federation), Japan

In addressing gender inequality, the government has pursued several legislative initiatives with the goal of reaching 30% female participation in public and private sectors by 2020. Initiatives include the Act of Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace (2015), the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality (2015) and the Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women (2015, 2017). Despite these efforts, as well as a willingness to annually report on progress on women's representation in leadership, progress has been slower than one would wish. (Japan ranks 165 out of 185 for gender parity in national parliaments).

forward to 8:00 am-5:00 pm to address concerns around work-life balance. Similarly, in the private sector, Keidanren member companies offer trainings, mentorship and networking programs at the management level in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. While slow, quantitative data<sup>7</sup> (as gathered by White & Case LLP and for the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase) has indicated progress for Japan at local and national levels in reaching its 30% goal.

Other critical factors to increase women's political participation include violence reduction policy and programming, as well as improved tracking and reporting, addressed in subsequent sections.

However, these efforts led by the central government have incentivized local governments and private sector actors to adopt similarly-driven policies. For example, the Yukatsu initiative, adopted across 41 prefectures, 16 counties, and 114 cities, shifts business day hours



### 3) ADDRESSING THE TRUST DEFICIT —LANGUAGE, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY PLATFORMS WITH DEFINED LINKS TO POLICY

The meaningful participation of young people is fundamental to sustainable development and a just and peaceful world. However, young people’s willingness or interest to engage through formal channels may at times be lacking, particularly in contexts of conflict, transition or dictatorship. A deeply-rooted lack of trust in institutions and established political systems often drives this reticence.

#### Ena M3aha—Active Citizens, The Jasmine Foundation, Tunisia

In Tunisia, language such as “citizenship” or “governance” can turn young people away. While young people were the main energy of the Jasmine revolution in 2011, only 6% of young people participate in civil society organizations and 4% in political parties. Amidst significant economic challenges, a lack of overall opportunity and feelings of exclusion, it is important to empower and enable young people to develop and own a constructive vision of their futures.

In response to these realities, the Jasmine Foundation facilitated the launch of an awareness campaign, designed and led by youth, focused on the importance of local democracy. Empowering young people to develop and drive their own campaign, while adapting the language to fit an often, otherwise disaffected audience, this campaign reached 60,000 people through direct community outreach. Through this work, and a variety of other projects, the Jasmine Foundation aims to increase social cohesion and youth civic engagement, working with young people at the

community level to strengthen their awareness and civic participation, while advocating with parliamentarians and municipalities for the inclusion of ordinary citizens, and particularly youth, in decision-making processes.

#### Youth Participatory Platforms, Georgia

The Youth Participatory platform brings together decision-makers, young people, as well as youth-led and other civil society organizations to discuss youth priorities that call for a policy response. In Georgia, youth forums were the first to address child marriage and helped to put this issue on the public agenda. In so doing, and subsequent to follow-up activities including in partnership with the Public Defender’s Office, legislation was passed stipulating the legal age of marriage (2016, 2017), as well as integration of related prevention strategies into national plans. Integrating national youth forums with the existing inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on youth policy helps to ensure sustainability of formal mechanisms for youth participation, advocacy, and youth monitoring of government accountability.

UNFPA Georgia is now advocating for a comprehensive youth policy. In keeping with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)<sup>8</sup> on Youth, Peace and Security, and the now released Progress Study<sup>9</sup>, this policy would seek to increase youth access to decision-making and elevate their role in social cohesion, peacebuilding and in the prevention of violent extremism.

### 4) YOUTH-LED ACCOUNTABILITY AND DECISION-MAKING MECHANISMS

#### Advancing Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights, Restless Development Youth Accountability Advocates, Ghana

By accessing decision-making and putting SDG 16 into practice, other components of the 2030 Agenda are advanced and vice versa. In Ghana, a youth-led project<sup>9</sup> was able to change the way young people access comprehensive sexual education and contraceptives, addressing SDG 3 on Health and SDG 5 on Gender Equality. Through a sexual health

and reproductive rights initiative, young people from 20 local organizations from 7 regions of the country were targeted and trained in social accountability mechanisms, receiving information about comprehensive sexual education, how to achieve the SDGs and how to influence policymakers.

Data was collected from over 500 youth, in and out of school, through questionnaires and one-on-one interviews about access to sexual education, services

and contraceptives. The findings of this project were presented at conferences with influential stakeholders, including the Ghana Health Service, with links to be

drawn to subsequently increased availability for comprehensive sexual education and contraception.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL CHANNELS

Meaningful citizen engagement is a challenge, both in terms of mechanisms used and because of a lack of willingness to engage—on the part of governments and citizens. In generic terms, both may argue that it is not time effectively spent. Citizens argue that neither is their time compensated nor are their ideas listened to. Governments stipulate that they are the true representatives of the people, and that civil society only speaks to its limited interests.

In countries that lack traditions of civic engagement, it is even more challenging to create trustworthy and effective public and state institutions. Policies that strive for increased inclusivity and equity must be introduced, and the process may be just as important as the ultimate objective.

**SOLUTIONS**

- + Center-Periphery Dynamics and Institution-building
- + Participatory Planning at the Local Level
- + Civil Society Inclusion in International Negotiations and Peace Processes

### 1) CENTER-PERIPHERY DYNAMICS: ADAPTING INSTITUTION BUILDING TO CONTEXT

#### National Development Plan, Somalia (2017–2019)

Following 25 years of state collapse, and despite certain successes of the preceding national compact, developing the first National Development Plan (NDP)<sup>10</sup> since 1986 brought a particular set of opportunities and challenges. In particular, strengthening the relationship between the federal government, the federal member states, as well as redesigning the federal architecture to be more responsive to the needs of civil society, and those beyond the capital, proved critical.

An emphasis was aimed for domestic stakeholder engagement in formulating the NDP, including consultations across all federal member states (except Somaliland). Further, and unlike traditional development plans, Somalia’s NDP includes political and security priorities, as a reflection of the context. This means inclusivity in political participation, the promotion of a vibrant civil society, transparent and accountable public administration, rule of law and security sector reform, the protection of human rights and the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The State is being re-established in a new three-tiered federal system which includes the federal government of Somalia, Federal Member States and district level administration. However, and again due to context, Somalia's government has to perform key functions while building its institutions. The process is multi-

tracked and non-linear, with permanent interaction between the political process (reconciliation and settlement) and the development of robust legislative, judicial and executive machinery.

Out of this, it is hoped that an ongoing electoral process will result in one person, one vote by 2020.

## 2) PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AT A LOCAL LEVEL

### Social Inclusion Advisory Committees, Georgia

As part of the Georgia-Czech Republic Transition program, Social Inclusion Advisory Committees were established across 4 Georgian municipalities. Committees included senior local government representatives such as mayors, heads of local councils, and heads of local branches of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; active social service providers representing different vulnerable groups, and in some cases, vulnerable groups themselves. (Georgian civil code requires every municipality to establish such an advisory committee). Further, a needs assessment was conducted to ensure that funding for vulnerable groups was being spent effectively across the four target municipalities.

Based on findings, advisory committees established municipal strategies, action plans and calls for proposals for social inclusion. As a result, 17 new social services were introduced in areas where they had never existed. (Funding had been previously allocated, but no services were provided).

This process was accompanied by capacity-building to help ensure that the same methodology would be applied in the future. In some cases, local government committed to the continuation of services after project completion, demonstrating a change in attitude, investment and behavior.

## 3) CIVIL SOCIETY INCLUSION IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESSES

In Ukraine, recommendations formulated by civil society for the Minsk agreements (2014) were used in negotiations by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With a focus on human rights, particular stipulations included: a rejection of impunity for criminal action, prohibition of

an election in non-controlled territories, and the immediate release of detainees in non-controlled territories.

While less than 50% of the national action plan has been fulfilled, civil society inclusion and input has been key to advancing the issue of human rights in negotiations.

## GOING FORWARD

In pursuing stronger institutions and participatory decision-making, key take-aways include:

- Pursue co-creation and citizen participation as a strategic goal
- Ensure that national-level legislation is institutionally supported at sub-national and local levels
- Advance and protect policies for increased political participation of women and youth
- Incentivize cultural shifts by highlighting the value of increased trust, cohesion and enhanced democracy through transparency and accountability
- Invest in civil society networks, particularly in unfriendly or oppressive contexts

## LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- + **Empowerment**—Delegation of responsibility.
- + **Co-creation**—Collaborating and co-creating with active and direct engagement. Example: the OGP Forum and the Action Plan Process.
- + **Involvement**—Working with civil society to formulate alternatives, evaluate and identify strategies and action points. Example: a series of interactive, civil society workshops in development of the OGP National Plan.
- + **Consulting**—Actively seeking input from citizens or civil society. Example: Participatory budgeting models, including priority-setting, resource allocation, and monitoring of resource expenditure.
- + **Information Availability**—Providing information to citizens so that they can make informed decisions. Example: Open Data.





## SUSTAINING PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

The phrase “there can be no peace without development and no development without peace” is a generally accepted and popular axiom. Subject to much current debate, discussions sought to unpack this statement, focusing on local-level realities of conflict and the organizational implications of sustaining peace, including a shift from time-bound, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction to a more holistic peacebuilding approach, driven by prevention and with clearer links to development and human rights.

The Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report<sup>11</sup>, as well as the President of the General Assembly’s 2018 High-level Event on Peacebuilding and

Sustaining Peace continue to focus on opportunities and challenges in coordination and implementation in a re-structured United Nations.

### DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS FOR PEACEFUL SOCIETIES

- + 16.1 Reducing All Forms of Violence
- + 16.2 Ending Abuse, Exploitation, Trafficking and All Violence and Torture Against Children





## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION: THEN AND NOW

The need to meaningfully address the root causes of conflict, while focusing on the processes of peacebuilding and reconciliation, in addition to the ultimate outcomes, was the subject of exchange. Policies of inclusion were prioritized, along with scaling positive peace, working towards reconciliation and social cohesion, and addressing stalled or seemingly non-existent peace processes.

### SOLUTIONS

- + Local Mechanisms: People to People Exchanges, Community Forums and Dialogues
- + National Mechanisms: Leadership, Commissions and Reconciliation Accelerators

## 1) LOCAL PEACEBUILDING MECHANISMS

### People to People Exchanges and Community Forums, Thailand

A history of conflict between the government and the Malay Muslim population in Thailand's deep south is driven by a range of issues, stemming from a policy of forced assimilation that has resulted in incarceration, ethnic killings (on both sides), Marshall law and emergency decrees.

A lack of progress in official negotiations, worsening levels of development (such as poverty and job loss), fear and insecurity have made it increasingly difficult to convince individuals to participate in peacebuilding. However, community level initiatives by the People's Empowerment Foundation encourage local populations, particularly women and youth, to engage in the peace process, provide their perspectives, and participate in forums with the wider community and academia. For those who cannot travel to attend Peace Forums at the university level, this discourse is brought directly to local communities through the establishment of "Academic People Centers". The centers were founded with the intention of strengthening community learning and leadership in peace talks and reconciliation efforts.

Intercultural exchange dialogues have also been introduced to educate individuals on collective peacebuilding and peace processes. (While national-level peace talks may be effectively stalled, civil society efforts continue to be made at the local level among communities.)

### Peace Forums, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Operating in multiple locations in the Eastern DRC, the United Nations Association of the DRC works on peacebuilding and reconciliation through Peace Forums, which attempt to empower local communities in decision-making. These forums offer a framework and physical space for discussion amongst local communities, UN Peace Operations representatives from MONUSCO (the UN's Peacekeeping Operation in the DRC), and government representatives to discuss best approaches to peacebuilding. Out of these forums, an education manual was produced and incorporated into the curriculum at a local primary school.

### Youth Dialogues, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan

In Serbia, young people from different communities

come together to foster dialogue and contribute to conflict prevention. Discussions focus on the promotion of gender equality among young men in their communities. In Kyrgyzstan, youth-led dialogues work to strengthen young people's engagement in interethnic peacebuilding and in the prevention of violent

extremism, while additional initiatives focus specifically on supporting young women and girls engaged in peacebuilding and the prevention of radicalization.

## 2) NATIONAL MECHANISMS: LEADERSHIP, COMMISSIONS AND "RECONCILIATION ACCELERATORS"

### The Truth and Friendship Commission, Indonesia and Timor-Leste

Following a history of conflict and occupation, and through notable political leadership at the top, Timor-Leste and Indonesia turned to a model of reconciliation which prioritized peacebuilding and nation-state building, with the aim of developing a constructive bilateral relationship and healing divisions within communities. Strengthening democratic and institutional capacities were prioritized, along with involving local communities from both countries, as mechanisms by which sustainable peace and reconciliation could be achieved.

The Truth and Friendship Commission<sup>12</sup>, established in 2005, consists of fifteen commissions, seven from Indonesia and eight from Timor-Leste, including government representatives, representatives of academic institutions, NGOs and people directly involved in the conflict. It continues to meet annually to follow up on commitments.

This policy of reconciliation and peace between Timor-Leste and Indonesia has led to progressive cooperation in political, social and cultural matters, as well as the economy and defense. Indonesia co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution<sup>13</sup> to include Timor-Leste as a full member of the UN and also advocated for its inclusion into ASEAN. While certain issues remain quite challenging and sensitive, notably around transitional justice, the political will of the leadership to look forward rather than backwards was fundamental to the process.

### Reconciliation Accelerators: Educational Exchange Programs, Trade and Joint Projects

#### Timor-Leste and Indonesia

Reconciliation accelerators can include cultural proximity, mixed families and kinship, a history of co-existence, as well as educational exchange and trade. Around 7,000 Timor-Leste students are currently studying at the university level in Indonesia, while about 50,000 Indonesians are living in Dili. In addition to student exchanges, cross border trade was noted as playing an important role in the reconciliation process between the two countries. Indonesia is the main trading partner of Timor-Leste, providing basic goods such as food, petroleum, gas and construction material. State-owned, Indonesian enterprises or operations have also been involved in the development of Timor-Leste's infrastructure.

#### Georgia

Reconciliation efforts with populations residing in annexed territories focus on extending the benefits of Georgia's development reform, including in terms of healthcare and education. Increased diploma recognition by Georgia for students living in the annexed territories, and the establishment of professional training strategies have aimed to incentivize engagement of youth in educational programs and serve as a confidence-building mechanism.

People to people contact, community-level reconciliation and confidence-building have been further pursued through joint projects on energy and the environment. Despite 20% of the country remaining under occupation, Georgia remains committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and dialogue around mutual interests.

## VIOLENCE REDUCTION, PREVENTION AND OWNERSHIP

The importance of violence reduction, and in particular gender-based violence, was highlighted along with national and community ownership, utilizing frameworks and policies that are already in place and working, and, in all processes, the primacy of politics.

### SOLUTIONS

- + Targeted Campaigns, Advocacy and Government Champions
- + National and Local Ownership
- + Flexible Financing and Foreign and Development Policies
- + Improving Operational Coordination

#### 1) TARGETED CAMPAIGNS, ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONS

Peaceful societies cannot be achieved without eliminating violence against women and girls. Yet, according to a 2017 report by the UN Statistics Division<sup>14</sup>, nearly one of five women and girls experienced physical violence from an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Forty-nine countries do not have laws protecting women from domestic violence.

##### Let Girls be Girls! Campaign, The Talitha Project, Tonga

In 2009, a local NGO focused on the empowerment of women and girls, the Talitha Project, conducted a survey that found that 77% of women in Tonga faced physical, sexual or verbal abuse. Though the 2013 Family Protection Act makes domestic violence a crime punishable by up to 12 months in prison with repeat

offenders facing up to three years in prison, violence was pervasive behind close doors. Further compounding issues around gender equality and gender-based violence, the Births, Deaths and Registration Act of 1926 allows for children to be married as of 15 with parental consent.

In response to such challenges, the Talitha Project, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, launched the Let Girls be Girls! campaign in 2017 to lift the legal age of marriage to 18. Also highlighting Tonga's signing of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, this awareness campaign gained traction in households across Tonga and caught international attention, spurring mobilization at all levels. Through such mobilization, advocacy and cooperation, the status quo for girls and young women in Tonga is that much closer to change.

### OPERATIONALIZING THE CONTINUUM

The Peacebuilding Commission was established in December 2005 to bridge the gap between peace operations and agreements handled by the UN Security Council and post-conflict reconstruction and development, as addressed by the UN Development System.

With the 2015 High-Level Reviews and the 2016 Sustaining Peace Resolutions, coupled with Secretary-General Guterres' reform agenda, his Sustaining Peace and Peacebuilding report, and the President of the General Assembly High-level Event on Sustaining Peace, the question of how this gap is to be better bridged and operationalized continues to be addressed and evolve. (See references, Sustaining Peace Report).

#### 2) PRIORITIZING NATIONAL AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Processes must be nationally and locally-owned. Ownership includes more than the political leadership, but rather all parts of the country. As governments come and go, grassroots acceptance and ownership of peacebuilding efforts strengthens continuity of process and the possibility of long-term sustainability. As highlighted by Timor-Leste, while acknowledging the role of the international community and the UN peacekeeping mission in the initial steps towards self-rule, defining the peacebuilding process as, by and for Timorese was critical.

##### The New Deal

Originally conceived by the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding—a partnership of donors, the g7+ countries of conflict-affected states and local and international civil society—the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*<sup>15</sup> is the first set of principles to guide international engagement in conflict-affected

states. It has five peace and state-building goals which can also be seen in SDG 16 and the Sustaining Peace Agenda. These goals include: Legitimate Politics (with a focus on inclusion), Security, Justice, Economic Foundations, and Revenues and Services (with a focus on accountable service delivery).

Priorities in peace and state-building vary by country, sub-national context and time. In Somalia, for example, the New Deal Compact<sup>16</sup> was focused on holding elections and identifying new constitutional priorities. In Liberia, a country that had been out of conflict for over 10 years but which had not yet reached stability, focus had been on reconciliation between the two major ethnic groups and decentralization to increase people's trust in the government. Particularly for states coming out of conflict, national and local ownership of SDG 16+ may be central to peace and prosperity and the cornerstone of human rights.

#### 3) FLEXIBLE FINANCING AS REFLECTIVE OF FOREIGN AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Act fast, stay engaged was a repeated motto for financing. Humanitarian budgets are skyrocketing. Without a focus on vulnerable populations and fragile and conflict-affected countries, this trajectory will not change.

For donors, circulating clearly articulated internal documents among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Development Agencies that explain how funds are to be spent, why and with what strategy is key. If the diplomatic and the political track is separated from the development track, resources are spent less efficiently and effectively, with flexibility and availability jeopardized. Without doing so, recipient countries may run the risk of becoming "aid orphans" with untenable expectations.

#### 4) OPERATIONAL COORDINATION-WITHIN A RESTRUCTURED UN

Improved coordination across the UN's pillars and their stakeholders will require improved incentives for long-term and comprehensive conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Further, coordination will become increasingly necessitated as responsibilities are

delegated to managers in the field. This includes across stakeholders, as well as within the UN system—resident coordinators, special representatives, peace and development advisors, the Secretariat, as well as UNDP, other UN agencies, the World Bank, etc.

#### GOING FORWARD:

In pursuit of prevention and sustainable peace, key take-aways include:

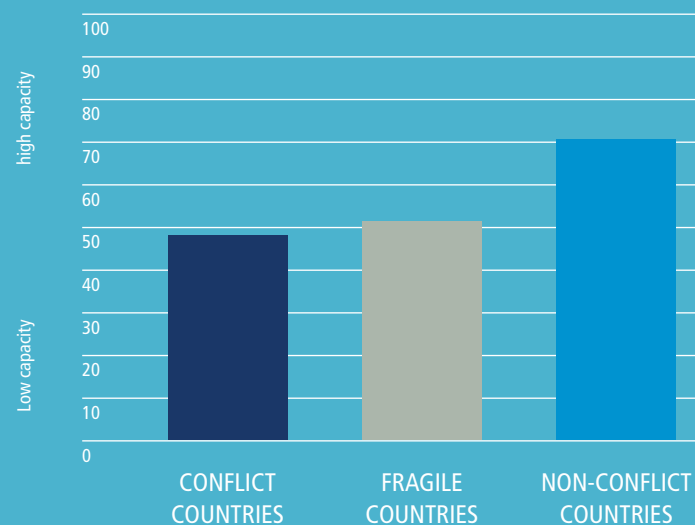
- Leverage simultaneous community mobilization, national and international advocacy and government support for targeted policy or legislative change
- Strengthen links between local and national prevention efforts, peacebuilding and peace processes
- Emphasize confidence-building measures and reconciliation accelerators, implemented alongside formal agreements
- Activate regional or international bodies (not just those directly affected by a conflict) to support peace and reconciliation processes



## DATA AND SDG 16+



**FIGURE 1: STATISTICAL CAPACITY IN CONFLICT, FRAGILE AND NON-CONFLICT COUNTRIES**



Source: Institute for Economics and Peace

Measurement is key to tracking progress. Tracking progress, in turn, is key to targeted policy interventions and to holding countries accountable to their performance in SDG implementation. By tracking data and measuring impact through monitoring and evaluation, we can draw upon grassroots experiences to achieve large-scale structural change. Innovative measurement frameworks around SDG 16+ further highlighted the attitudes, institutions and structures that can help create peaceful societies. According to the Institute for Economics and Peace<sup>17</sup>, about 85% of the Sustainable Development Goals are associated with the drivers of peace.

However, against this backdrop of possibility, pervasive challenges remain. At the forefront are data gaps and a lack of capacity among National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and other government bodies. Official data is often insufficient, incomplete or inconsistent across time or administrative level, further hindered by weak or non-existent coordination. Again, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace, out of the 22 indicators it follows (SDG 16 has 23 indicators), eight have data for less than 50% of countries and only seven have data for more than 90% of countries. (See Figure 1.)

Indicators such as violence against children, sexual violence and underreporting of violence are comparable for less than 40% of countries. Only 30% of countries have dedicated budgets to gender statistics, exacerbating gaps in sex-segregated data. In addition, the challenge of conflict of interest was noted for indicators measuring topics as significant as “rule of law” (SDG 16.3), SDG 16.5 on corruption or SDG 16.10 on the killing and detention of human rights activists.

### SOLUTIONS

- + Making Data Accessible
- + Capacity-Building and the Voluntary National Review
- + Reconciling Official and Non-Official Data
- + Contextualizing Indicators



Another challenge is the lack of capacity across civil society and government agencies to process datasets, and ensuring that the data presented does not reflect the lack of legitimacy often attributed to institutions in

the eyes of the public. Even if data is publicly available, it is not always easily accessible or understood. In response to said challenges, solutions were also put forward.

## 1) MAKING DATA ACCESSIBLE AND INTERESTING

### Storytelling and Data, Georgia

As mentioned, publicly available data is often buried in long PDF reports with confusing language. In order to address this, civil society organizations have attempted to translate this data through stories, engaging citizens both on the content and subsequent policy implications. The idea is to make data more transparent and comprehensible through engaging visuals, interactive portals and social

campaigns that demonstrate the value of transparent and readily accessible datasets and how civil society can contribute to monitoring, reporting and data analysis.

Civil society initiatives have also worked with central election committees to identify data collection discrepancies, either due to clear corruption or human error and irregularities in the number of votes vs. ballots available at various levels of sub-national government.

## 2) NATIONAL LEVEL CAPACITY-BUILDING

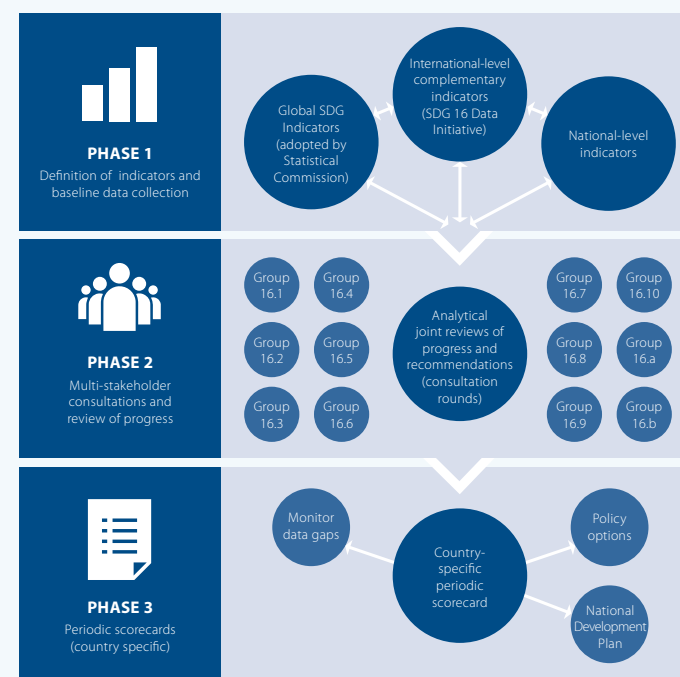
### UNDP National Level Monitoring Pilot

Looking towards the 2019 High-Level Political Forum and the Voluntary National Review, UNDP is supporting national-level monitoring of SDG 16 in six countries, all of which are members of the OGP.

By augmenting monitoring and integrating it with implementation, policy-making and subsequent implementation are also strengthened. The initiative can be understood in three stages: assessing information on the 23 indicators from national statistical commissions or offices in order to find the gaps; grouping the gaps according to indicator or SDG 16 targets and holding multi-stakeholder consultations with government, civil society and private sector stakeholders to discuss specific challenges, and developing report cards that combine a quantitative and qualitative (explanatory) assessment. (See Figure 2).

This project is further supported by the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, focused on leveraging reporting to accelerate progress towards peace, justice and inclusion (see appendix).

**FIGURE 2: PILOT INITIATIVE ON NATIONAL-LEVEL MONITORING OF SDG 16**



Source: United Nations Development Programme<sup>18</sup>

## 3) RECONCILING OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL DATA

The issue of reconciling formal, member state mechanisms with non-government sources of information was repeatedly underlined. National Statistical Offices require better financing to cover these data gaps, but in the interim, third party data collection and measurement is key for tracking. Non-official surveys, studies, and

research at the country level can be used as proxies for the implementation of a particular target.

While capacity challenges also affect civil society, integration may also increase the perceived legitimacy of data presented in the eyes of the general public.

## 4) CONTEXTUALIZING INDICATORS

SDG targets should be integrated with, rather than imposed on, a country to develop a coherent, pertinent and context-specific strategy. This may be even more true for g7+ countries. Of particular focus was 16.3 and its need to be contextualized in order to identify clear and functional priorities for national governments.

To address these problems, data should be collected using uniform and locally-oriented methodology and indicators, which are harmonized with international standards. This can achieve strengthened utility, compatibility, and accountability of data, increasing the effectiveness of resource allocation and adding value for national use.

### New Deal Framework

Countries are encouraged to create their own indicators, alongside those adopted from international frameworks, in order to best contextualize monitoring mechanisms to local conditions. Challenges remain in national data collection due to weak institutional capacities, underreporting where cultural aversion to grievance sharing exists, as well as varied understanding of what constitutes a crime.

### SDG 16 Data Initiative

Linking comparability and civil society-driven data, other initiatives such as the SDG 16 Data Initiative<sup>19</sup>, has proposed complimentary indicators to those developed by the UN that are available to all countries.

## GOING FORWARD

In advancing data collection and reporting around SDG 16+, key take-aways include:

- Translate global frameworks for national contexts and priorities
- Increase coordination mechanisms and trust, across and between governments and civil society
- Regularize monitoring rather than an ad hoc or "one-off" approach
- Integrate civil society-generated data through clear guidelines on collection, verification and scoring
- Prioritize targets and indicators once scored. For example, emphasize gender-based violence in Pacific Island States, given that 60-70% of women have reported experiencing sexual violence at least once in their lives.



# CONCLUSION: TAKE-AWAYS AND GOING FORWARD

## 1) INCLUSION IN PROCESS, POLICY AND PRACTICE

Openness and inclusion in process may be just as important as output. From policy design to implementation to monitoring and evaluation, there must be a conscious effort to be meaningfully inclusive, particularly against a backdrop of shrinking democratic space. National Development Plans and Strategic Development Plans, as well as Voluntary

National Reviews, continue to offer platforms for greater and more systematic stakeholder engagement (with lessons to be learned from the Universal Periodic Review consultation process).

From access to information to peace processes, active and sustainable inclusion is critical to SDG 16+, sustained peace and an improved social contract.

## 2) PRIORITIZING NATIONAL AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Tension often arises when country-owned and country-led processes used to identify and determine peacebuilding strategies are not inclusive nor transparent—leaving certain communities to feel overlooked. Particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states, there is evidence that locally-owned peacebuilding processes have the best chance to succeed.

From addressing root causes to community-based, dispute resolution mechanisms and development priorities, efforts to increase national and local ownership, as coherently linked, are key.

## 3) SCALING WHAT WORKS, INCREASING COORDINATION AND SYNCHRONIZING AGENDAS

The importance of not reinventing the wheel, utilizing what already exists and is working, while strengthening relevant inter-governmental coordination was reiterated. In Sierra Leone, such an effort was made in developing SDG Thematic Papers, which drew out links in institutional mandates and actors between various sectors. In the review and validation process, civil society, development partners and other key players were invited to contribute.

Similarly, gains made through OGP commitments and actions can be used as a tool to further reduce corruption, strengthen institutions and extend access to legal aid and justice mechanisms. Working across ministries, increasing inter-governmental coordination and engaging civil society is fundamental to this process.

## 4) DATA AND MEASURING PROGRESS

To better measure progress and incentivize buy-in, (disaggregated) data will need to be prioritized. This will require increased support and capacity of NSOs, other government and non-government sources, more coherent and context-reflective national and global indicators, as well as better integrated datasets from official and non-official, civil society and third party, sources.

demand in a finite amount of time. Therefore, data produced by official and non-official actors is to be capitalized upon. While global indicators provide comparability, national indicators may have greater potential to create buy-in and drive accountability and incentive at national levels.

Further, recognizing that global indicators will inevitably be limited, national level indicators and methodological capacities behoove investment and attention. NSOs are meant to be the primary source of official SDG data, yet with a total of 230 indicators, this is a significant

## 5) PARTNERSHIPS: CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In pursuing SDG 16 and the larger 2030 Agenda, the importance of political leadership in government is clear. However, citizen and civil society engagement, as often the link between government and citizen, needs to be a strategic goal. Civil society is pivotal in sensitizing communities to the SDGs and the cultural shift required to realize the transformative possibility of the 2030 Agenda. Emphasis must be placed on strengthening these partnerships with civil society, as well as fostering new ones with businesses for which advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies is viewed as an incentive for investment and a sound business decision.

2019 will be a critical year. Not only will SDG 16 be reviewed, among others, at the HLPF under the theme of “Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality”, it will also mark four years from the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda’s quadrennial review. As we move towards this milestone and beyond, partnerships both across stakeholders, and among global partnerships focused on other SDGs, will be critical to advancing SDG 16+ and the 2030 Agenda as an integrated whole.

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## GOING FORWARD: SDG 16+ AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN PRACTICE

In building upon the Secretary-General’s Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, greater attention needs to be placed on synergies between Sustaining Peace, Human Rights and SDG 16+—as a bridge between the development, peacebuilding and human rights communities. Without undermining the direct relevance of other SDGs to prevention and the concern in too closely aligning these agendas and communities, the tangible links between prevention, human rights and peaceful, just and inclusive societies<sup>20</sup>, particularly at the national and subnational level, are clear. Human rights violations, for example, are often the root causes of violence.

As noted in the UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace report, “for all countries, addressing inequalities and exclusion, making institutions more inclusive and ensuring that development strategies are risk-informed are central to preventing the fraying of the social fabric [...]”<sup>21</sup>.

The 2019 HLPF provides an opportunity to take stock of where we are, and what is still needed in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Going forward, collective efforts must then emphasize the implementation of SDG 16+ across interlinkages, agendas and stakeholders for meaningful impact and sustainable peace and development, irrespective of country or context.

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# APPENDIX

## SDG 16 TARGETS, INDICATORS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

- Indicator 16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- Indicator 16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- Indicator 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of people that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

### 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

- Indicator 16.2.1: Percentage of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
- Indicator 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
- Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

### 16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

- Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
- Indicator 16.3.2: Unsensitized detainees as proportion of overall prison population

### 16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

- Indicator 16.4.1: Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
- Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized and small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments

### 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months
- Indicator 16.5.2: Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

### 16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

- Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
- Indicator 16.6.2: Percentage of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

### 16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

- Indicator 16.7.1: Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
- Indicator 16.7.2: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

### 16.8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

- Indicator 16.8.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

### 16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

- Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

### 16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

- Indicator 16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months
- Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

### 16.a. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

- Indicator 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

### 16.b. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

- Indicator 16.b.1: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

# APPENDIX

## MEMBER STATE-LED, PARTNER SDG 16+ INITIATIVES

Among the various initiatives meaningfully engaged on SDG 16+, the following are also member state led and with which the 16+ Forum more regularly cooperates.

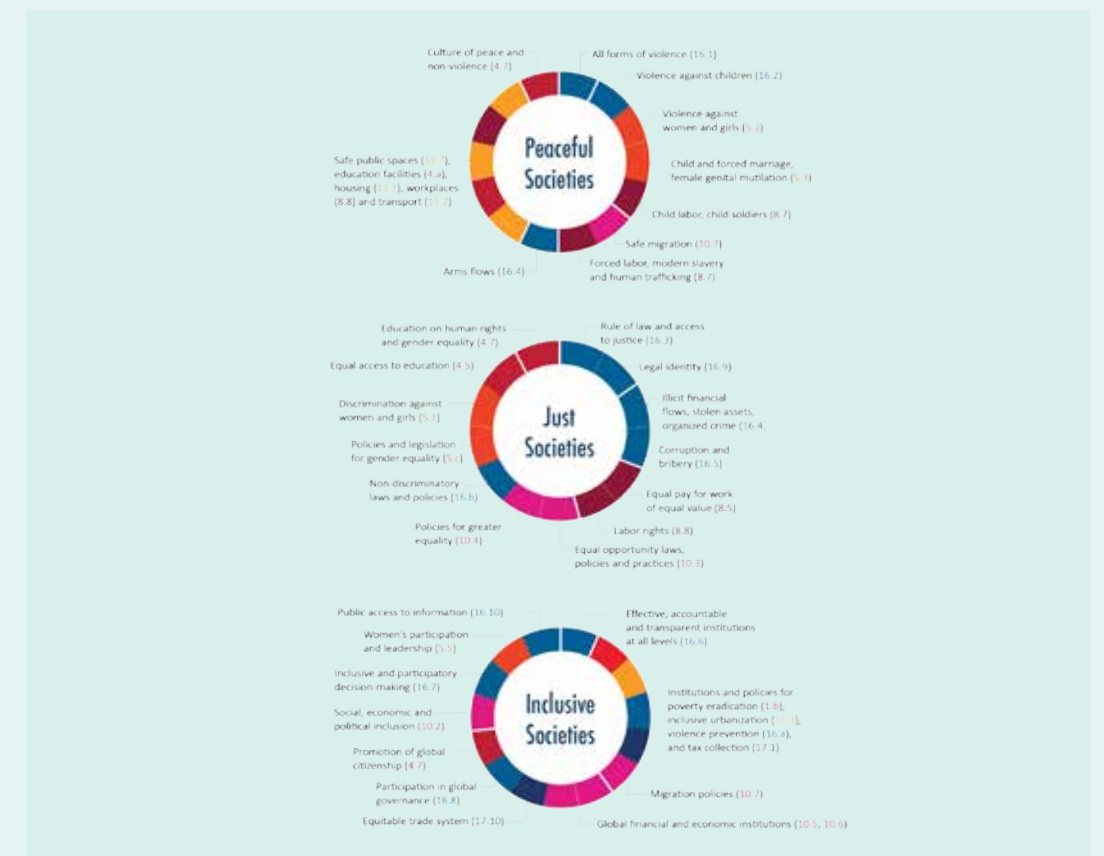
### GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies brings together Member States, the private sector, civil society and international organizations to leverage reporting to accelerate progress towards peace, justice and inclusion. The Alliance is chaired by Qatar, with a Steering Committee including Cabo Verde, Mexico, Norway, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and the UK, along with representatives of civil society and the private sector. See <https://sdgresources.relx.com/ga>

### PATHFINDERS FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, is chaired by the governments of Brazil, Sierra Leone, and Switzerland, and published a roadmap in 2017 to accelerate the implementation of SDG16+. The roadmap is supported by 21 further countries and was developed with the support of a number of international organizations and global partnerships. The Pathfinders are now focused on supporting national and international implementation, and taking forward grand challenges on justice, SDG16.1 and social, political and economic inclusion. See <http://www.cic.nyu.edu/pathfinders>

### ROADMAP TO PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES DIAGRAM



Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2017), The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies—A Call to Action to Change our World. New York: Center on International Cooperation, available at <http://www.cic.nyu.edu/pathfinders>

# PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in South East Europe  
Administration of Government of Georgia  
Agency for Development and Cooperation Switzerland (SIDA)  
Arab Program for Human Rights Activists  
Bahá'í International Community  
Center for International Cooperation  
Center of Studies for Peace and Development  
Centre for Training and Consultancy  
Civic Development Agency  
Civil Service Bureau  
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding  
Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid)  
Council of Europe  
Democracy and Development Associates Sierra Leone  
Embassy of Austria, Tbilisi  
Embassy of Sweden, Tbilisi  
Embassy of Switzerland, Tbilisi  
Embassy of the State of Qatar, Tbilisi  
Embassy of the UK, Tbilisi  
Europe is our Home  
ForSet  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frieden und Entwicklung (FriEnt)  
g7+ Secretariat  
Georgian Civil Development Association  
Georgian Competition Agency  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)  
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict  
IDP Women Association  
Institute for Economics and Peace  
Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information  
International Center on Conflict and Negotiation  
International Labor Organization  
International Monetary Fund  
International Organization for Migration  
IREX Safe Initiative  
Jasmine Foundation

JSC MFO Crystal  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs(MFA) Czech Republic  
MFA Georgia  
MFA Guatemala  
MFA Republic of Indonesia  
MFA Republic of Korea  
MFA Sweden  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Sierra Leone  
Ministry of Finance Sao Tomé e Príncipe  
Ministry of Justice Georgia  
Namati  
National Statistics Office Georgia  
NATO-Georgia Professional Development Program  
Non-Violence International  
Office of the Public Defender Georgia  
Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Open Society Georgia Foundation  
Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project  
Parliament Georgia  
People in Need  
People's Empowerment Foundation  
Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Sao Tomé e Príncipe to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN  
Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN  
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Policy and Management Consulting Group  
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Restless Development

Rule of Law Initiative, American Bar Association  
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth  
Government Republic of Armenia  
State Audit Office Georgia  
Statistics Sweden  
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  
TAP Network: Transparency, Accountability and Participation for the 2030 Agenda  
Tbilisi City Hall  
Tetra Tech  
Transparency International  
Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union  
UN Women  
UN Association (UNA) Australia  
UNA Democratic Republic of the Congo  
UNA Georgia  
UNA Sweden  
UNA Zimbabwe  
UN Development Programme (UNDP)  
UNDP Georgia  
UNDP Istanbul  
UNDP Seoul  
UN Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO)  
UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Georgia  
UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)  
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)  
UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)  
US Agency for International Development (USAID)  
Welfare and Development Center Georgia  
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