TAP Network Strategic Plan 2017-2020

The **T**ransparency, **A**ccountability & **P**articipation (TAP) Network is a broad network of CSOs that works to ensure that open, inclusive, accountable, effective governance and peaceful societies are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that civil society are recognized and mobilized as indispensable partners in the design, implementation of and accountability for sustainable development policies, at all levels.

The TAP Network engages some of the foremost expert organizations on the issues around Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals 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." TAP benefits from the invaluable expertise, experiences and unique perspectives of its members, all of whom come together to collaborate on joint work and common positions under the TAP Network umbrella. This work is underpinned by recognition that we maximize reach and influence when many stakeholders speak with a unified voice.

Vision:

TAP's vision for the 2030 Agenda is framed by notions of rule-of-law and the TAP principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, as well as respect for human rights. Effective governance and sustained peace in a Post-2015 world requires transparent, participatory and inclusive institutions that are accountable to the very people that the 2030 Agenda has committed to engage.

The TAP Network is united in the belief that open, inclusive, accountable and effective governance and peaceful societies are both outcomes and enablers of sustainable and equitable development. The 2030 Agenda must promote openness, accountability and effective public institutions, build trust between states and its citizens, lay the foundation for peaceful and just societies, and empower civil society to engage in the design, implementation and accountability of public policies, at all levels. TAP's work also looks to reinforce the assertion that SDG16 underpins the entire 2030 Agenda and that SDG16 is linked with all other SDGs.

TAP's work also reflects the will and impetus of the millions of citizens from around the world who voted for 'an honest and responsive government' as one of their top priorities in the My World survey – a theme echoed in consultations with people around the world throughout the Post-2015 negotiation process.

Objectives:

The TAP Network's over-arching goals are to support, contribute and strengthen capacity of civil society stakeholders to work on issues of transparency, accountability and participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global and national levels, with a particular focus on SDG 16 which underpins the entirety of the 2030 Agenda. Through this work, the TAP Network aims to:

1. Help ensure the Transparency, Accountability and Participation around 2030 Agenda follow-up and review is strengthened at the global level, and in countries undertaking voluntary national reviews for the SDGs
2. Expand opportunities for civil society to harness data for SDG accountability and ensure development of robust indicators and methodologies for SDG16.
3. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work around SDG16 and to support monitoring and accountability for the 2030 Agenda at all levels

Priority Work Streams:

1. *Help ensure the Transparency, Accountability and Participation around 2030 Agenda follow-up and review is strengthened at the global level, and in countries undertaking voluntary national reviews for the SDGs*
   - *1.1: Enhance engagement of TAP and civil society in global level processes related to SDG follow-up and review*
   - *1.2: Help empower civil society to engage in national-level reporting processes for countries undertaking national voluntary reviews*

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the focus of the TAP Network's work has turned to ensuring robust monitoring and accountability for these commitments at all levels – including the global, regional and national levels. Each of these work streams at various levels are intrinsically linked with the others, with national-level work feeding up through the regional-level and to TAP's work at the global level, and vice versa.

1.1 – TAP's work around the global level follow-up and review processes will largely focus on continuing its role as a key player around global UN processes that represent the "official" channels for governments to report on SDG progress and SDG16, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and related mechanisms. TAP's work at the global level will provide a platform for collective advocacy, as well as to intimately follow relevant processes to provide timely intel and updates to enable Members to engage in this work. To complement and strengthen these efforts, the TAP Network will utilize its positioning as a founding Member of the Steering Group of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. Bringing together Member States, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, this Global Alliance works to encourage governments to report on progress towards SDG16, and provides guidance and support for governments in putting together voluntary national reviews. In addition to these "official" reporting channels, TAP will also explore "alternative" means for holding governments accountable for SDG commitments, including through TAP's work on the SDG16 Data Initiative and making use of existing thematic experts reports to feed into the country's own reflection and reporting. (see 2.1 below).

1.2 – National-level work around monitoring and reporting for the 2030 Agenda will build upon the work that TAP Network member organizations are undertaking around national reporting processes. TAP's work will have a particular focus on countries undertaking voluntary national reviews in a given year, where the Network will look to host capacity building workshops around the Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit (see 3.1 below) to empower and enable CSOs at the national-level to engage with their governments in these SDG reporting processes. The TAP Network will pilot Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops in key regions to empower national-level organizations to host SDG16 workshops in their countries, and will provide capacity support and tools for these national-level workshops as necessary. In an effort to continuously improve its capacity building programs, TAP will utilize these national workshops as a learning opportunity to help the Network identify challenges and opportunities to taking on capacity building and SDG monitoring work at the national level. In addition to working in countries undertaking reviews, TAP will also work to encourage other governments to report on the 2030 Agenda, and work with civil society groups in a limited set of select countries to encourage this reporting. This work at the national level will also include the production of an "SDG Accountability Handbook" (see 3.2 below)

Strategic Partners

- Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
- TAP Network Members
- Relevant regional Networks
- UN Agencies
- National governments

Entry Points for Engagement

- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
- Meetings of UN Regional Commissions and regional Sustainable Development Forums
- Processes to develop national reports for countries undertaking voluntary national reviews
- Open Government Partnership

2. *Expand opportunities for civil society to harness data for SDG accountability and ensure development of robust indicators and methodologies for SDG16.*
   - *2.1: Infiltration of TAP inputs into SDG16 global indicators and data processes*
   - *2.2: Increased recognition of the role of "non-official" and civil society data sources in monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and empower civil society to understand and work with data for accountability*

2.1 – Building upon its extensive advocacy and technical work around the indicators and data for SDG16, the TAP Network will continue its work towards the elaboration of detailed metadata for the global SDG16 indicators through its work as a member of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. Additionally, the TAP Network will work with the Praia Group and contribute to the group's development of a "Governance Statistics Handbook," which will serve as a go-to resource with guidance for National Statistical Offices and other data providers on methodologies, best practices and stakeholder mapping around governance and SDG16 data. Additionally, TAP will continue its work around the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to push for expanded indicators for SDG16 targets.

2.2 – The TAP Network will look to build upon and strengthen the work of many of its members to increase the recognition of "non-official" and civil society generated data to support SDG monitoring and accountability, and look to strengthen the capacity of civil society to engage in data related issues. The TAP Network will work with the SDG16 Data Initiative and other partners such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to put together resources, tools and trainings for civil society to understand how to work with data, and how to improve data for accountability. TAP, in partnership with others, will work to produce a "Data Literacy Toolkit" aimed at sensitizing civil society stakeholders to complex and technical issues related to data. As a founding Member of the SDG16 Data Initiative, TAP will also will also work with Data Initiative partners to produce an annual global progress report on SDG16, based on the "non-official" data available through the Data Initiative platform. This progress report will provide an independent examination of SDG16 progress, and will draw upon the expertise from some of the top data and SDG16 experts from civil society around the world. TAP's national-level SDG16 workshops (see 1.2 above) will also provide an opportunity for the SDG16 Data Initiative and TAP to take stock of best available data for accountability from nationally focused CSOs in different contexts.

Strategic Partners

- Praia Group on Governance Statistics
- SDG16 Data Initiative
- Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- TAP Network Members

Entry Points for Engagement

- IAEG-SDGs
- UN World Data Forum
- UN Statistical Commission
- Praia Group on Governance Statistics
- ECOSOC and UN General Committees

3. *Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work around SDG16 and to support monitoring and accountability for the 2030 Agenda at all levels*
   - *3.1: Increased engagement of civil society with SDG16 at the national level*
   - *3.2: Strengthened capacity of civil society to engage in follow-up and review/accountability processes at the global, regional and local levels*
   - *3.3: Increased activity and engagement of stakeholders around TAP work at the global and national level*

3.1 – Building upon its extensive work around the Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit, the TAP Network will expand its work to help strengthen the capacity of civil society stakeholders to work around SDG16 issues at the national level. This work will include 1) development of issue-specific "modules" of the Goal 16 Toolkit by TAP members, 2) translating the Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit and other resources into additional languages and 3) hosting of Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshops, regional and national-level workshops and webinars in various languages. In addition to expanding the suite of Goal 16 capacity building tools, the TAP Network will also look to host capacity building workshops and trainings in different countries to help expand the engagement of national-level CSOs with SDG16.

3.2 – In an effort to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to hold governments accountable for their commitments to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the TAP Network will work to produce various tools and resources for civil society to engage in monitoring and accountability processes at all levels. This work at the national level will include the production of an "SDG Accountability Handbook" – a capacity building tool for national-level CSOs to work around accountability for the 2030 Agenda. To help strengthen the capacity of these national-level organizations, the TAP Network will also host workshops around the SDG Accountability Handbook in countries undertaking voluntary national reviews in a given year.

3.3 – In order to maximize the reach and the influence of the TAP Network and its resources, the Network will have to also focus on efficiently and strategically strengthen its work with its members and partners, and to expand to be as inclusive as possible – particularly at the national level. This would include undertaking continuous outreach activities to promote the resources that TAP provides for national-level civil society stakeholders, as well as promotion of TAP's work at the global level at UN and other global meetings and conferences. This will lead to increased awareness and engagement of TAP's work at all levels, and will help strengthen the Network to bring a wider range of experts to contribute to its work.

Strategic Partners

- Open Government Partnership
- Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
- TAP Network Members
- Existing regional and national CSO Networks

Opportunities for Engagement

- Workshops with Open Government Partnership
- Workshops with TAP Network Members
- Workshops alongside Global Alliance work