

Making Goal 16 Transformative: Governance Indicators in a Post-2015 World

ORGANIZED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
THE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & PARTICIPATION (TAP) NETWORK



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the United Nations



Transparency, Accountability
& Participation in Post-2015

INTRODUCTION

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations and the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network co-organized a side-event on “*Making Goal 16 Transformative: Governance Indicators in a Post-2015 World*” that brought together key experts on governance and statistics from civil society, governments and the UN System, to explore synergies and discuss potential indicators for Goal 16, hosted on the margins of the Third Session of the Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations dedicated to discussing sustainable development goals and targets, as well as indicators. The side-event featured a panel of speakers followed by an interactive dialogue.

Panel of Speakers:

- H.E. Ms. Simona Miculescu, Permanent Representative, [Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations](#)
- Mr. Chris Murgatroyd, Policy Advisor, [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)
- Mr. Craig Fagan, Senior Policy Coordinator, [Transparency International](#)
- Mr. Anthony Caswell, Director of International Affairs, [Save the Children Mexico](#)
- Ms. Quinn McKew, Deputy-Executive Director, [Article 19](#)

Moderator: John Romano, Coordinator, [TAP Network](#)

SUMMARY

H.E. Ms. Simona Miculescu, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations started off the discussion by reiterating the Government of Romania places a high emphasis on the issue of governance. She underlined the mounting evidence that has accumulated on the critical nature that good governance plays in eradicating poverty and promoting social and economic well-being.

Ambassador Miculescu stressed if we want to ensure that “*no one is left behind*” then we need to ensure to no rights are disregarded. The sustainability of development results and the poverty eradication efforts requires the rule of law, effective institutions and human rights. Ambassador Miculescu underlined that while sustainable development provides a framework at the global scale, equally important is the development and provisions of metrics to track progress to achieve these objectives. She stressed that data is the lifeblood for decision making and accountability; and without high quality data, designing, monitoring and evaluating effective policy becomes almost impossible.

Ambassador Miculescu stressed the UN Statistical Commission [technical report](#) is only an initial assessment, acknowledged by its authors. She stated a comparative low rating for an indicator does not mean a target is not measurable. She emphasized that she strongly supports the process set out in the roadmap in the report of [the Friends of the Chair \(FOC\) on broader measures of progress](#) for developing an indicator framework for the SDGs. Finally, she underlined her appreciation the participants on behalf of the Government of Romania and herself for the hard work they are carrying out on governance.

Mr. Chris Murgatroyd, Policy Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stated that Goal 16 represent a significant change in terms of how we think about governance and what it means for individual countries and those people within those countries. He emphasized when we think about indicators we need to think about the question most people asked themselves “*Has my problem been solved?*”

Mr. Murgatroyd provided a short briefing on UNDP Goal 16 Virtual Network, which is a group of expert stakeholders assisting in identifying indicators for Goal 16. The group will be developing a report on indicators for Goal 16 which they will try to feed into the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Murgatroyd highlighted that UNDP has been piloting with a number of Member States on approaches for governance. They want to work with stakeholders on how to measure governance, identifying indicators, overcoming gaps and constraints to implementing frameworks on governance, and are trying to disseminate a report on lessons learned from their work on good governance.

Mr. Craig Fagan, Senior Policy Coordinator, Transparency International emphasized that we can measure governance, and it has been done before by a wide range of actors. He provided a short briefing on the [Global Corruption Barometer](#)

[2013](#), which is the biggest ever survey taking world-wide public opinion on corruption. One of the main findings of this report was 1 in 4 people had paid bribe for access to basic services – that’s about 27% of the people surveyed.

Mr. Fagan highlighted the correlation between high corruption and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In their study [“The Anti-Corruption Catalyst: Realising the MDGs by 2015”](#) it was highlighted that there is a correlation between higher rates of bribery and lower rates of development outcomes. For example, in Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education), Goal 5 (Improve maternal health) and Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability).

Mr. Fagan stressed the data does exist and it is sustainable for measuring elements of governance at the national and local level, and that all of the producers and users of data must be included in this process to identify indicators for the Post-2015 agenda, as well as in its monitoring and review.

Mr. Anthony Caswell, Director of International Affairs, Save the Children Mexico emphasized commitments expressed in Goal 16, with transparent, participatory and accountable governance and institutions at its center, has the potential to address structural obstacles for the realization of all post-2015 goals and targets. It will now be important to develop relevant and robust indicators for the governance-related targets under Goal 16. These must be limited in number to prevent excessive reporting burdens on countries. A complementary dashboard of additional national indicators could be proposed internationally from which countries could select those that are most relevant to their context and priorities.

Mr. Caswell stated Save the Children strongly believes that the development of indicators should remain a technical process. Indicators must be consistent with targets and not inadvertently lower the level of ambition, according to what is considered most easily measured. Where data is currently not available, Member States must commit to develop new measurement tools and embrace non-traditional indicators, including qualitative and perception-based measures, where appropriate. He also highlighted an example of participatory governance in involving Children in the discussions of the Post-2015 agenda, and stressed that these approaches were critical to achieving an inclusive agenda going forward.

Ms. Quinn McKew, Deputy-Executive Director, Article 19 emphasized that her organization has extensively on the measurability and past precedents for many targets on Goal 16. It is not only civil society that are measuring elements of Goal 16 but UN agencies and other intergovernmental institutions such as the World Bank. She underlined if the correct indicators for Target 16.10 are not selected, the rights to access to information from public bodies might be forgotten.

Ms. McKew emphasized the proposed indicators in Goal 16.10 undermine the concept of *“leaving no target behind”*. She stressed access to information is an empowerment right and the current proposed indicators for measuring Goal 16.10 does not reinforce these rights. She highlighted that indicators for Goal 16.10 should have the legal and regulatory framework that ensures the right of access to information from public bodies that encompasses the elements of freedom of expression, association and assembly, and that they are based on international standards. She highlighted [UNESCO Media development indicators](#) as one example of a framework that are already measuring elements of Goal 16.10.

In her closing statement, she emphasized it will require a broad partnership with different stakeholders to collect data not just for Goal 16 but all the SDGs.

Intervention by Ms. Miryan Vieira, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the United Nations;

Ms. Miryan Vieira from the Mission of Cabo Verde provided a short briefing to participants on the ***Praia Group on Governance Statistics*** which was endorsed by the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, to address the conceptualization, methodology and instruments with the aim to support the establishment of international recommendations on governance statistics. The Praia Group will deal with statistics on the major dimensions of Governance. The overall objective of the proposed Praia Group is to encourage countries to produce governance statistics based on sound and documented methodologies. Some next steps for the Praia Group on Governance Statistics includes:

- Will be organizing an expert group consultations on Goal 16.
- Will be organizing consultations with Ministries and Governments at the national, regional and local level.
- Proposed that the first meeting of the Group might be held in Praia, in the first half of 2015.
- The Group operate for a five-year period, from 2015 to 2020, reporting to the Statistical Commission at its sessions in 2016, 2018 and 2020.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The TAP Network released their Open Letter Response to the UN Statistical Commission's Technical Report on Indicators, and presented it at the side-event. The letter, endorsed by 28 civil society organizations from the TAP Network, stressed the need to engage all stakeholders in the development of indicators for the SDGs. It also highlighted the fact that governance has been measured by a wide range of actors, in countries all around the world. The letter outlines a few key points for consideration by NSOs, UN Agencies and civil society organizations when drafting indicators for the Post-2015 agenda.

You can find the TAP Network Open Letter Response here: <http://bit.ly/1NiuODI>

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