

## **Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit launched at International Civil Society Week 2016**

**Bogota, Colombia** – In September 2015, world leaders agreed on the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) – a set of 17 Goals and 169 targets to guide global development, universal and potentially transformative in nature. This included Goal 16, a ground-breaking standalone SDG on peaceful, just and inclusive societies and accountable institutions.

**On Tuesday 26 April, the [Transparency, Accountability and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) and [CIVICUS](#) hosted a capacity building workshop during [International Civil Society Week \(ICSW\) 2016](#)**, with the aim of supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) from around the world in their work around the implementation and accountability for Goal 16 in their own countries.

This workshop showcased the recently released [TAP Network Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit](#) – a resource for stakeholders, particularly national level CSOs to use in informing their advocacy around the implementation of and accountability for Goal 16 and the SDGs more broadly. It provides detailed guidance on opportunities and entry points for working with governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of Goal 16 commitments. The Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit – now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#) – builds on the recognition of the 2030 Agenda that affirms that ‘there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development’. It also recognizes that good governance and strong and accountable institutions underpin development and peace-building efforts.

This interactive workshop, attended by dozens of experts and advocates from CSOs around the world, and explored the opportunities for engaging in the SDGs and Goal 16 at the global and national levels. It also included presentations from Argentine Network for International Cooperation (*Red Argentina para la Cooperación Internacional, RACI*) and CEPEI (Colombia) – both organizations who have been actively engaged in advocacy work around Goal 16 in South America. Later, participants had the opportunity to work directly with one another through breakout groups to discuss the challenges and opportunities that CSOs might face in advocacy around Goal 16, as well as solutions and ways to overcome these challenges.

John Romano, Coordinator of the TAP Network said on the event: “With the focus of governments’ work around the SDGs now shifting to national and local implementation, civil society within countries must now be mobilized and empowered to contribute to this work, and for us to push our governments to implement Goal 16, and to do so in ways that are transparent, participatory and inclusive of the expertise and contributions of a wider range of stakeholders. We hope that this Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit is the first step in strengthening capacity of civil society actors to contribute to this work going forward.”

The adoption of the SDGs in September 2015 was a historical milestone in global efforts to achieve sustainable development. However, this workshop serves as a reminder of the importance of civil society engagement in Goal 16 advocacy at all levels, as well as the wide range of expertise on these from organizations around the world.

**Notes:**

- ❖ For more information on the TAP Network, please visit [www.tapnetwork2030.org](http://www.tapnetwork2030.org)
- ❖ For more information on CIVICUS, please visit [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)
- ❖ For more information on RACI, please visit [www.raci.org.ar](http://www.raci.org.ar)
- ❖ For more information on CEPEI, please visit [www.cepei.org](http://www.cepei.org)
- ❖ The [Transparency, Accountability and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) is a broad network of CSOs that works to ensure that open, inclusive, accountable and effective governance is at the heart of Post-2015 sustainable development agenda, 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's [Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit](#) was launched in April 2016, and is now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)

**Contacts:**

John Romano, Coordinator, TAP Network – [romano@wfuna.org](mailto:romano@wfuna.org)

Cassia Moraes, Sustainable Development Officer, CIVICUS - [cassia.moraes@civicus.org](mailto:cassia.moraes@civicus.org)