

“IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON MEASURING PROGRESS OF SDG 16+: LOOKING FORWARD, TACKLING OBSTACLES”

Side event of the SDG 16 Data Initiative, in the margins of the
2021 High-Level Political Forum

Monday, 12 July 2021 – 7:30am-9:30am (NYC Time)

CONCEPT NOTE

Mankind continues to face one of the deepest health crises in its history, affecting the quality of democracies, economies, and welfare worldwide. More than five years from the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals framework, we find ourselves at a point of setback, where the need to have strong and inclusive institutions, able to guarantee justice and peace, becomes instrumental to enable the achievement of the already ambitious SDGs.

The COVID 19 pandemic has presented significant challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, jeopardizing the global ability to achieve all 17 goals by 2030. This becomes evident with increased levels of inequalities, limitations in State capacity, erosion of democratic institutions, constraints in the access to justice and protection of human rights, increased conflicts based on exacerbates social, political and economic weaknesses all over the world, among other concerning effects that continue to impact us on a daily basis. In addition to this, limitations in the capacity to collect data (official and unofficial) and access to information has presented complications to accurately measure progress and have a clear idea of where we stand and what is needed to continue moving forward.

This event seeks to enable a conversation to discuss evidence-base findings and propose forward looking recommendation to recover from the pandemic, enhancing methodologies for measuring progress, the availability of data, and the effects on the quality of institutions. The conversation will highlight the importance of data collection from official and unofficial sources to achieve SDG 16+ in the post-pandemic world, as well as the need to overcome limitations in the access to information.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

The side event of the SDG 16 Data Initiative aims at presenting an analysis on the main challenges and opportunities proposed by the COVID 19 Pandemic in terms of implementation of initiatives to measure progress and achieve related indicators. The guiding questions for the discussion include:

- What is the state of the world according to available data on SDG 16, and more specifically on the target/indicator that your organization focuses on?
- What are key challenges, opportunities, and trends that the data shows?
- What is the state of data coverage on SDG 16 targets and indicators?
- How does non-official data matter for supporting targets and indicators?
- What are key methodologies to strengthen and incorporate non-official data in measuring progress?
- Which are key recommendations for stakeholders to recover and come back stronger from the impact of the Pandemic on measuring progress and boosting action towards the achievement of SDG16+?

PURPOSE

The virtual meeting is intended to contribute to the conversation that will take place in the framework of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum and will discuss SDG 16. This conversation will also feed the SDG16 Data Initiative Global Report 2021, which will be published by the end of 2021 as a collaborative effort among the members of the Initiative, contributing to the ongoing analysis on the advances around SDG 16 and the data gaps that still exist in the task of assessing progress.

The meeting proposes a multi-stakeholder space to highlight trends and seeks to present an outlook for the next years, showcasing specific cases that would help identify challenges and opportunities on the creation of data that would contribute to the UN's institutional frameworks to measure progress, and complement the work that National Statistical Offices, as presented through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), as well as other resources developed by local, national, regional and global actors for this purpose.

ABOUT THE SDG16 DATA INITIATIVE

The SDG16 Data Initiative is a collective project by a consortium of 17 organizations seeking to support the open tracking of the global commitments made by more than 194 countries on peace, justice, and strong institutions. The initiative aims to complement the current efforts underway to develop an official indicator framework for monitoring the SDGs. It is intended that national statistical systems will eventually produce the majority of the data for these indicators. The UN Statistical System and other global organizations will then collate this official data at the global level. However, official data availability and coverage is currently limited, and it may take years to develop capacities and to collect data for official monitoring through official statistical systems. In the interim, we should draw on available data to help countries get started with monitoring SDG16.

The SDG16 Data Initiative, formed by a group of organizations with expertise in these areas, aims to fill this role. The initiative is an attempt to pull together data sets in an open format to track SDG16 and provide a snapshot of the current situation, and eventually progress over time. To this end, we include both global and complementary indicators, presented with official and unofficial data. The process also seeks to identify potential challenges in data quality, availability, and coverage that need to be addressed.

AGENDA

7:30am-9:30am	HLPF Side Event: Impact of the Pandemic on Measuring Progress of SDG 16+: Looking Forward, Tackling Obstacles
7:30am-7:35am	Welcoming remarks by Massimo Tommasoli , Director of Global Programmes and Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations; Coordinator of the SDG16 Data Initiative
7:35am-8:40am	Discussion Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Chamness Long, Director, Access to Justice Research, World Justice Project (WJP)• Haakon Gjerløw, Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)• Toby Mendel, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD)• Ivana Bjelic Vucinic, Projects Manager, Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

- **Miguel Angel Lara Otaola**, Senior Democracy Assessment Specialist, International IDEA
- **Anne-Séverine Fabre**, Data Expert, Small Arms Survey

8:40am-9:20am **Questions and Answers session**

9:20am-9:30am **Closing remarks**