Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a coordinating platform for UN Member States, private sector, civil societies and UN Agencies to strengthen evidence-based reporting, monitoring and measurement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Reporting on SDG 16 in Voluntary National Reviews

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Sustainable Development Goal 16

- **SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Inclusion**: New goal

- **SDG 16+**: Peace, Justice and Inclusion reflected also in other goals

- **SDG 16** an important goal to enable other goals
Why are VNRs important? Why is Reporting on SDG 16 Crucial?

- **VNRs are not an end in themselves**, but rather a stock taking exercise to assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs help to **strengthen accountability on the commitments** Member States have made and provide an important **platform for partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement** on the 2030 Agenda. **VNRs are most effective when they are undertaken as part of national planning processes.**

- While over 85% of Member States that submitted VNRS in 2019 reported on at least one SDG 16 indicator, **comprehensive reporting on SDG 16 still lags other goals** (White & Case VNR Analysis). SDG 16 is a relatively new development focus area that requires innovative approaches and the use of previously untapped data to monitor.

- The **urgency of progress on SDG 16 as both an outcome and an enabler** of sustainable development couldn’t be more pressing. Through the lens of SDG 16+, which traces the themes of peace, justice, and inclusion throughout the 2030 Agenda, we can see and harness the **catalytic impact of SDG 16.**

- **Reporting is a useful tool** to not only track achievements on SDG 16 but to also drive them forward. In other words, if an effective monitoring system is being used, there is **more accountability** and often clarity for getting things done. Moreover, if reporting is carried out through an **inclusive and participatory process** it can also lead to greater ownership of the 2030 Agenda at all levels of society and strengthen pathways for collaboration across sectors.

- Presenting a VNR at the High-Level Political Forum adds international visibility and political commitment to the important process of monitoring national progress on the SDGs. **By including SDG 16 in a VNR, a Member State is reaffirming their commitment** to creating peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and demonstrating transparency by acknowledging strengths and weaknesses in their approaches. By speaking openly about challenges in monitoring, reporting, and implementing SDG 16, Member States can learn from peers that have had similar experiences and mobilize support from the international community to accelerate progress.
Useful Steps to draft an SDG 16 Chapter

Planning

• Due to the cross-cutting nature of SDG 16, a workplan is helpful to coordinate the activities amongst the various actors involved in preparing the SDG 16 related content of the VNR. Ensure that enough time is allocated to develop the content through an inclusive and participatory process, integrate the content with different sections of the VNR, as well as validate the final content with all stakeholders.

Stakeholder Analysis

• Because SDG 16 is directly related to issues affecting all citizens, a transparent multi-stakeholder engagement process is essential for providing a comprehensive picture of progress and deepening national and local ownership.

Jointly defining priorities

• The scope of the SDG 16 review should be informed by the views of all stakeholders. Through the identified strategies for multi-stakeholder engagement, determine what aspects of SDG 16 are available/the most pressing to report on in the VNR.

Data Collection & GAP Analysis

• An evidence basis for progress on SDG 16 is important for a VNR, but 100% of data is not needed to review SDG 16. In addition, identifying SDG 16 data gaps and challenges in a VNR can provide impetus for the creation of new monitoring systems to improve data availability on SDG 16, including with international support.
Incorporation into VNR

- Recognizing the indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda and that SDG 16 has firm links to other goals, the final content needs to be fully integrated and aligned with the rest of the VNR.

Multi-stakeholder Validation

- To continue the inclusive and participatory process of developing the SDG 16-related content of the VNR and localize ownership, it's important that the final content is validated by the diverse stakeholders engaged throughout the process.

HLPF Presentation

- The stakeholders engaged in developing the SDG 16-related content of the VNR make good candidates to travel with the Member State delegation to present the findings at the HLPF. Involving non-state representatives in the VNR presentation demonstrates inclusivity from beginning to end of the VNR process and emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Post VNR/National Planning

- The momentum created through the VNR process can help advance implementation of SDG 16 after the HLPF presentation. The evidence gathered and the network of stakeholders created for the VNR should be utilized to take forward important action points.
The scope of the SDG 16 review should be fully informed by the views of diverse stakeholders (i.e. move away from passive consultation and a pre-set agenda). Through the identified strategies for multi-stakeholder engagement, determine what aspects of SDG 16 are available/the most pressing to report on in the VNR, options include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comprehensive review of all SDG 16 indicators (recommended)</th>
<th>Chile’s 2019 VNR provided the data and sources available for all indicators of SDG 16 since 2015. The VNR also described actions taken, challenges experienced, and plans for further SDG 16 implementation.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Specific targets/indicators of SDG 16 that are most relevant to the national context</td>
<td>Azerbaijan’s 2019 VNR provided a detailed chapter on SDG 16 with activities, results, and data for seven targets (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 16.9, 16.10, 16.A) with corresponding indicators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority themes in SDG 16 to cluster relevant SDG 16 targets/indicators under</td>
<td>Uruguay’s 2019 VNR grouped the SDG 16 targets and indicators into four themes (Violence and Security; Access to Justice and Rights; Transparency, Governance, and Access to Information; Participation and Inclusion) and describes challenges and successes for each.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An evidence basis for progress on SDG 16 is important. While data on all SDG 16 indicators may be difficult to find it is vital to be as comprehensive as possible. In addition, identifying SDG 16 data gaps and challenges in a VNR can provide impetus for enhancing data collection on SDG 16 in the future, including with international support.

The United Kingdom’s 2019 VNR used a combination of global data, government, and nongovernment sources. Data available on all SDG 16 indicators is included in a Statistical Annex to the VNR. The annex lists sources for each indicator and offers an explanation for any difference between the global indicator and the national indicator used. Data can also be accessed through the publicly available UK National Reporting Platform.

In the preparation of Sierra Leone’s 2019 VNR, civil society took the lead in data collection, holding consultations across the 16 districts of Sierra Leone. Data was also collected from the government, district/local councils, traditional leaders, UN agencies, media groups, the private sector, and various studies, surveys, and reports. The Data Collection Instrument used is included in the Annex of the VNR.

During Pakistan’s 2019 VNR preparation the Government launched its ‘Data Reporting Gaps Analysis’ study. Each SDG was analyzed for the efforts required to report on its relevant target. National data collection tools were modified to improve data availability with a focus on the inclusivity, equity, and sustainability aspects of the SDGs. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) upgraded the country’s data collection tools. The PBS formed four Technical Sub-Committees to review and finalize data collection instruments and the calculation of indicators based on an internationally acceptable methodology. Through a broad consultative process, they approved certain amendments in data collection tools for both institutional and survey-based instruments.
SDG 16 Chapter Examples
Inclusive & participatory
- The VNR has been prepared in a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach

Clusters targets and indicators

Available data
- Statistical data is not provided, but data sources

LNOB
- Specific mentioning of challenges for vulnerable groups

Covers all indicators

No statistical annex

CASE STUDIES: What does a strong VNR/SDG 16 CHAPTER LOOK LIKE

2018 Uruguay SDG 16 Chapter
CASE STUDIES: What does a strong VNR/SDG 16 CHAPTER LOOK LIKE

2019 Timor Leste SDG 16 Chapter

Inclusive & participatory
- A participatory process through establishment of a CSO advisory group and marginalized groups (women, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTI)

No clustering of targets

Available data
- Limited data with only 24% coverage of SDG 16 indicators
- Data is gathered from line ministries, the UN, INGOs etc.

The themes of the SDG 16 indicators are covered

LNOB
- A section on LNOB is provided, although not SDG 16-specific
- A situational analysis for vulnerable groups, including women, children and people living in rural areas is included

Statistical annex is provided
Timor-Leste SDG 16 chapter

- 10 pages
- SDG 16 as a priority goal in the VNR
- Low data availability
- Contextual analysis of social cohesion and levels of stability in the country is in focus
Inclusive & participatory
State institutions, academia, civil society, private sector, youth organizations

No clustering of targets

Cover target-level and indicator-specific level, with statistical and numeric data, including trends, successes and challenges

What data
- New data inputs, including communication technologies extracted from e-courts & e-justice kiosks
- Online surveys
- Private sector

LNOB
- Commitment to human rights strengthened

No statistical annex
Azerbaijan SDG 16 chapter

- 13 pages
- Covering all SDG 16 targets and indicators
- Examples of traditional and alternative data sources
- SDG 16 chapter developed in a participatory process
SDG 16 monitoring: Available Support
Global Alliance products

July 2019
https://www.sdg16hub.org/landing-page/sdg16-report

Revised version forthcoming July 2020
Handbook on Governance Statistics launched March 2020 at UN Statistical Commission

Provides methodological and practical guidelines on how to measure 9 topics related to governance (Human Rights, Non-discrimination, Participation, Openness, Access to and quality of justice, System responsiveness and satisfaction, Absence of corruption, Trust, Safety and security) including SDG 16 related data and indicators
SDG 16 Hub - https://www.sdg16hub.org/

Curated Content
- WHAT
- WHO
- HOW TO
- SDG 16 Initiatives

Interactive Space:
- Profile
- Groups
- Discussions