

INAUGURAL ANNUAL SHOWCASE CONCEPT NOTE

Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
From Words to Action: Implementing SDG 16+
at the local and national level



Sixteen
Plus Forum

30 October–1 November 2017
Courtyard Marriot Tbilisi
4 Freedom Square



Sixteen
Plus Forum





What Is SDG 16?

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The bedrock of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is about governance, building trust and sustaining peace.¹ From anti-corruption and the rule of law to participatory decision-making, violence reduction and the promotion of peace, SDG 16 touches on all aspects of society and across the 2030 Agenda. Its realization is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ Out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, SDG16 is to “promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, encompasses 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is universally applicable. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>.

What Is the 16+ Forum?

As the core of the Peaceful, Just and Inclusive pillar of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 is one of the more innovative aspects of the new development framework. It is also one of the more challenging goals to implement and capture. A partnership between the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), the Member States of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and the g7+, the 16+ Forum provides a platform to learn from best practices and success stories, while applying SDG 16+ as a lynchpin from which to consider interlinkages across the wider 2030 Agenda and the 36+ related targets. In short, the 16+ Forum seeks to demonstrate SDG 16+ in policy and practice, as an output and enabler of the universal and interdependent 2030 Agenda, with links to Sustaining Peace and other relevant agendas, and through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

What Is the Annual Showcase?

In September 2016, WFUNA, together with the 16+ Forum Partners, announced the Annual Showcase, a collective undertaking to demonstrate SDG 16+ in action—what implementation looks like, how to go about it, and lessons learned going forward. With the participation of governments, local and international civil society organizations (CSOs), members of the UN system, the private sector and academia, the Annual Showcase is envisaged as a yearly opportunity to highlight steps taken at the national and local level in anticipation of the 2019 High-level Political Forum and beyond. Each year, the Annual Showcase features one flagship theme, with two underlying themes to ensure that the full breadth of Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is featured during the discussions.

The 2017 inaugural event will be hosted by Georgia from 30 October - 1 November, and will highlight strategies, partnerships, policies and programming in Georgia, other 16+ Forum contexts and elsewhere. The Showcase will open with an opportunity to take a closer look at the process and results behind Georgia's anti-corruption and good governance initiatives, particularly through the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), of which it is now Chair, as well as its efforts to build "Peaceful Societies" through the country's peace and confidence-building efforts. Field visits to related institutions and civil society initiatives will be included as part of the event's agenda.

What Will We Achieve?

4 In a sea of dynamic High-level Political Forums, UN General Assemblies, and multilateral agendas, the Annual Showcase offers a focus on SDG16+ implementation at the national and community level.² It also provides a forum for policy makers and thought leaders to connect this work and 2030 interlinkages to similarly-focused agendas, such as that of Sustaining Peace, and implications of restructured UN peace and security architecture.

With an eye on the 2019 HLPF, focused on Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality, and in anticipation of the Annual Showcase, the 16+ Forum held its first "Mid-Year Expo" during this year's HLPF, to provide a snapshot of 16+ Forum efforts to advance SDG 16+ thus far, in partnership with civil society.

² The High-level Political Forum, held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, provides a central platform for follow-up and review of [all goals of] the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the full and effective participation of all Member States and States member of specialized agencies.



Why Georgia?

Over the past decade, Georgia has continuously and systematically sought to fight corruption at all levels, strengthen its public institutions, and enforce government accountability for its citizens. While not without its challenges, the Georgian government has worked to rebuild citizens' trust in a tangible and meaningful way. E-governance and modern technology have helped to facilitate this process, making public service delivery more transparent and efficient, while paving the way for civil society's inclusion into the public administration. From Community Centers, Public Service Halls and one-stop-shop models, to revised legislation easing an access to information and the establishment of multi-stakeholder, anti-corruption council, Georgia provides an example of one country's approach to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. From being one of the more corrupt countries within Eastern Europe in 2003, Georgia now has a 4% corruption perception among its citizens.³

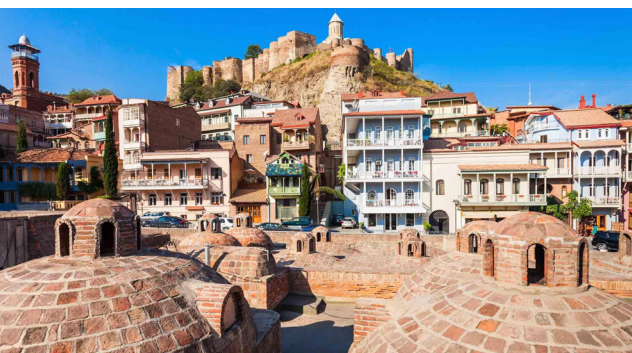
³ In 2003, Georgia ranked 124 out of 133 countries and territories on Transparency International's Corruption Perception index. In 2014, it ranked 55 and, as of 2017, it ranks 44 out of 176. http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016

Through its commitment to transparency, accountability, citizen participation and technology and innovation, Georgia seeks to fundamentally change the relationship that Georgians have with their public institutions and civil servants. Further, its peace and reconciliation efforts offer insight into the process of building of “peaceful societies,” inclusive of marginalized communities and those who have been forcibly displaced. The involvement of civil society is, and has been, a critical component of these various efforts and processes.

Further underscored as Chair of OGP, Georgia provides an example of Goal 16+ in action, as applied to national context and inclusive of interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, such as reducing inequalities and building partnerships. As a leader in SDG nationalization and also having participated in the 2016 Voluntary National Review, Tbilisi offers a pertinent background for all participants to showcase, share and learn from each other’s experiences in advancing just, inclusive and peaceful societies.

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Outcomes

The Showcase will highlight the feasibility of SDG 16+ implementation, strengthen the case for its centrality across the 2030 Agenda and offer a set of guidelines for sustainable and locally-relevant implementation, based on the Showcase's findings.

More specifically, the Showcase will:

- Hold a preliminary capacity-building workshop on 29 October for local, regional and international CSOs to feed into the Annual Showcase main conference
- Highlight innovative implementation strategies, policies and programming, including National Development and Strategic Plans.
- Demonstrate interlinkages between SDG16+, the wider 2030 Agenda, OGP, additional UN priorities, and other SDG 16+ initiatives
- Link the global conversation with national and local implementation
- Complement follow-up and review efforts, through an outcome document that will capture best practices shared and offer implementation guidelines going forward

Subsequent Annual Showcases will be held in different 16+ Forum member countries. These future convenings will contribute to maintaining momentum behind SDG 16+, its on-the-ground implementation and an overall push for 'peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence'.⁴

⁴ Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>.

Format

The 2017 Annual Showcase main conference will be held over 3 days (30 October - 1 November) to engage global and national policy makers and practitioners on SDG16+ implementation. Day one will be dedicated to field visits. Days two and three will consist of plenary and breakout sessions.

Pursuing an inclusive approach from the start, a capacity-building workshop will be held for Georgian CSOs, as well as other regional and international CSOs, working on SDG 16+ issues in advance of the Showcase on 29 October. This workshop has two primary aims: to further train (in particular local) CSOs on SDG 16+ advocacy and implementation and to provide an overview for and from a civil society perspective on the 2030 nationalization process in Georgia, with a focus on SDG 16+ and links to OGP.

Following the 3-day main conference, a post-conference gathering will be held for high-level government representatives to discuss effective strategies for galvanizing political support around SDG 16+ issues.

Partners

The conference is co-organized and supported in partnership with the Government of Georgia, including the Administration of Georgia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Government of Sweden, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the United Nations Development Programme, USAID, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the Austrian Development Agency, as well as Tetra Tech ARD and

local civil society partners, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and the United Nations Association of Georgia.

Participants

The conference is expected to involve approximately 120 participants from an estimated 20 countries. The selection of the participants will be as follows:

Government: national authorities will have been requested to propose two focal points per country, with one representative from capital and one from the diplomatic mission to the United Nations. The aim is to have government participants that are knowledgeable about what is already being done in their country on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, can build on experiences on how to improve it, and have the ability to return from the Annual Showcase and contribute to furthering policy on SDG16+. Members of the 16+ Forum will be core participants.

Civil Society: an outreach effort will ensure that approximately 20-22 local/ national civil society organizations, as well as select regional and international civil society representatives, will attend the main conference. Approximately 40 civil society representatives will participate in the preceding capacity-building workshop.



Private Sector: national representatives from interested parties from the private sector, including from local businesses and the entrepreneurship community, will be invited. Where appropriate, global representatives will also be invited to attend.

United Nations System: The UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia will attend, in addition to other UN personnel in Georgia, neighboring regional capitals and select UN Headquarters-based staff. International and regional expertise from the UN system and other international organizations will be further drawn on to facilitate sessions.

Conference Themes

Each year, the Annual Showcase will feature one flagship theme, with two underlying themes to ensure that the full breadth of Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is discussed. Within each theme, interlinkages across SDG 16+ issues, themselves, will be drawn out, as well as the universality of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the themes noted directly below, independent case studies, research and frameworks will be presented that focus on the interlinkages of the 2030 Agenda, provide a series of steps to take in order to realize the targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and that address challenges in reporting on related targets.

FLAGSHIP THEME

Just Societies: Promoting Good Governance, the Rule of Law and Anti-corruption

As the flagship theme for the 2017 Annual Showcase, the promotion of the rule of law and the fight against corruption will be highlighted.

This will most notably be featured through a field visit to the Open Government Partnership Secretariat offices (among other institutions and related, local civil society organizations), while the Government of Georgia will report on its various other work in relation to this theme during the opening plenary session. Then, broadening the discussion beyond the OGP, additional anti-corruption and good governance initiatives from other partner governments will be showcased.

Georgian civil society, as well as other civil society and stakeholders, will be invited to share their work and best practices, while other government delegations will seek to showcase their strategies to fight impunity and promote good governance and the rule of law.

SECONDARY THEMES

Inclusive Societies: Strengthening Institutions and Participatory Decision-Making Processes

As a secondary theme, the conference will feature partner efforts to create stronger institutions and inclusive, participatory decision-making processes, through formal and non-formal channels.

Interventions will explore policies of inclusion and perhaps unintended exclusion, the process by which inequalities are identified and addressed, and the role of civil society and others in working with governments at various levels to fulfil commitments made towards building inclusive societies in the 2030 Agenda. Civil society from Georgia will be joined by regional and international representatives working closely on many of the same or similar issues. Within this theme, particular focus will be placed on youth, women, and gender-related priorities and organizations.



Peaceful Societies: Sustaining Peace and Conflict Prevention

In 2016, the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly adopted identical resolutions to commit to Sustaining Peace—bringing about an institutional shift in the work of the UN.⁵ Within the Sustaining Peace Agenda, specific references were made to the interlinkages between peace and development, the role of the peacebuilding architecture in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the role of SDG 16+, in particular.

In identifying overlap and complementarity with related multilateral agendas, as well as local, national and regional implications of the UN Secretary-General's most recently proposed revisions to the UN's Peace and Security architecture, attention will be paid both to Sustaining Peace and Prevention, and to linking SDG 16+ implementation with policy tracks related to the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Additional attention will be placed on policies and programmes that reinforce positive peace and community-level resilience, as well as those focused on the prevention of violence and conflict. Presentations to further explore the work of women and youth/youth-led organizations in preventing and reducing violence.

⁵ "Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2282 (2016) on Review of United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture" (2016)
- <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12340.doc.htm>.