



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Tuesday, 9 July – Thursday, 18 July 2019

### HLPF 2019: Civil Society Organizations come together to advocate for an increased focus on the implementation of Goal 16

***In recent months, a group of major global civil society networks including [Forus](#), [the Asia Development Alliance \(ADA\)](#), and the [Transparency, Accountability, and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) have worked on the production of a report on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) and how this goal has been implemented thus far by governments around the world. The effective implementation of Goal 16 at local, national, regional and international levels is a precondition for the realization of many other of the agenda's goals and targets. The UN HLPF side event "["Empowering Civil Society for Reporting and Action on SDG 16"](#)" that will launch this report will take place in [the South Korean Embassy \(460 Park Ave 9th Fl, New York, NY 10022, USA\)](#) from 9:30am until 12:30pm on Friday July 12th.***



*New-York – July 12, 2019 - Increased fragility and conflict, negative impacts of climate change, slowing economic growth, rising inequalities, growing intolerance, and frequent attacks on international norms and human rights are threatening the momentum towards equitable and sustainable development in many countries across the world. Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to*

*justice for all, and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions.*

Iara Pietricovsky, current Chair of the global civil society network Forus, echoes the Director-General of the intergovernmental organization dedicated to the promotion of the rule of law, justice and development the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Irene Khan in saying that progress on implementing SDG16 has been slow and uneven in many countries around the world. *"It is clear that the targets of SDG16 will not be met by 2030 unless there is much greater effort by the entire international community"* Irene Khan says *"SDG16 is widely recognized for its cross-cutting value where the wider SDG agenda is concerned. A failure to*

*achieve SDG 16 will therefore also impact negatively on the achievement of the agenda's other goals."*

This "[Empowering Civil Society for Monitoring and Action on SDG16](#)" report (Empowering Civil Society report) — published by [Forus](#), [the Asia Development Alliance \(ADA\)](#), and the [Transparency, Accountability, and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#), with contributions from CIVICUS, Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State building (CSPPS), Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Namati, Saferworld, and Transparency International (TI) — features a compilation of national civil society case studies and civil society spotlight reports on SDG16.

The report provides analysis of a range of approaches and methodologies utilized by civil society for implementation and monitoring of SDG16 by civil society. The report also examines gaps, challenges, and opportunities for robust accountability at all levels, and provides key recommendations for enhancing civil society monitoring and action going forward.

Recommendations for accelerating national action and implementation of SDG16 include: the establishment of a formal platform to collect, showcase, and review Goal 16 commitment made by governments; specific improvements in the areas of governance, creating an enabling environment for civil society, and integrating human rights norms; improved data collection, analysis, and use; better public access to information; bottom-up approaches; evaluations of civil society's "value offer"; recognition and support by governments of "Partnerships for Knowledge"; further national capacity building and awareness raising support for civil society and other stakeholder; greater awareness, inclusion, and active participation of all; and finally more coordinated and integrated implementation.

The report concludes with broader global recommendations for improving the overall implementation and monitoring of SDG16, summarized from the "Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+" (Rome Declaration).

**Between now and the next time SDG16 is reviewed, civil society expects to see progress in the following seven areas:**

1. SDG16 must be implemented in an integrated manner;
2. A people-centered approach must be taken to its implementation;
3. Inclusive partnerships should be promoted;
4. Data, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms should be strengthened;
5. Civil society must be protected, and civic space expanded
6. There should be increased capacity building of for implementation; and
7. Goal 16 commitments must be scaled up.

The "[Empowering Civil Society for Reporting and Action on SDG 16](#)" event will take place in **the South Korean Embassy (460 Park Ave 9th Fl, New York, NY 10022, USA) from 9:30am until 12:30pm on Friday July 12th.**

**For further information, please contact:**

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**About Forus**

Forus, previously known as the International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP/FIP), is a member-led network of 69 National NGO Platforms and 7 Regional Coalitions from all continents representing over 22,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues.

<http://forus-international.org>

**About the HLPF**

*\*The 2019 **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** will be taking place on 9 – 18 July. This year, SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 are under review; and 47 countries will submit their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We are now four years into the 2030 Agenda, but we know that governments reporting at the VNRs have provided very mixed pictures of progress. We are also aware that civil society involvement has also been patchy so far, despite an official commitment to engaging them fully in the review of progress. Forus will be organizing several events to strengthen these areas well as promoting [a review of HLPF and its engagement mechanisms](#).*

**About the 2030 Agenda**

*\***2030 Agenda** - This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets of this new universal Agenda seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>*

*\***SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals** - The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>*

*\***VNRs, Voluntary National Reviews** - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". The voluntary national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. The national reviews aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>*