

# Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda

High-level Launch Event  
22 September 2016

On the margins of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, a high-level event was held to launch the *Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies*. The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Cabo Verde, Mexico, Norway, State of Qatar, Sierra Leone and Tunisia to the United Nations and organized jointly by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, and the United Nations Development Programme, as facilitator of the Global Alliance.

The high-level event provided a platform for Member States, representatives from civil society and the private sector, as well as high-level personalities to outline priorities, exchange knowledge and experience, and strengthen partnerships within the international community to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

The event featured high-level speakers from Member States, civil society, and the private sector as well as the UNDP Administrator [Helen Clark](#), [H.E. Mary Robinson](#), President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, a statement from the Secretary General, and concluding remarks from the President of the General Assembly [H.E. Peter Thomson](#).

Common themes heard throughout the morning included: the universality and indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda; the desire to convert words of commitment on SDG16 into concrete action; the need for innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships to break siloes of work and create lasting impact; and opportunities for the Global Alliance to liaise closely with other initiatives on SDG16 and peaceful, just, and inclusive societies more broadly.

The *Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies* is a network of UN Member States, civil society organizations, and private sector companies that are dedicated to the promotion of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. With the facilitation of UNDP and support from the UN system and its international partners, the Global Alliance provides a coordinating platform of support to Member States for effective and meaningful reporting on progress towards this essential component of the overall agenda, including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its links to the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Inaugural Steering Committee of the Global Alliance consists of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations from Cabo Verde, Mexico, Norway, State of Qatar, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia. Alongside these Member States, representatives of the private sector, including Deloitte, LexisNexis, and White&Case, as well as civil society representatives from New York University's Center on International Cooperation, the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation Network, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations have committed to serve on the Steering Committee during the first year of the Global Alliance.

Introduced by **Bonian Golmohammadi** from the World Federation of United Nations Associations, **UNDP Administrator Helen Clark** welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the Global Alliance to support effective reporting on SDG16 and its linkages to the whole 2030 Agenda, including by “recording and sharing the human stories behind the statistics, to paint a very full picture of what is happening.”



In the Ministerial segment:

- Speaking first, **H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi**, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, State of **Qatar** emphasized Qatar’s commitment to promoting SDG16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and highlighted the importance of social cohesion. In addition to significant support to promote peace, solve a number of regional conflicts, the Minister referred to Qatar’s work on combatting transnational organized crime and also highlighted the establishment of the Qatar National Committee for Integrity and Transparency.
- **H.E. Dr. Luis Filipe Tavares**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Communities and Minister of Defence, **Cabo Verde** expressed his country’s commitment to the Global Alliance, highlighting the role of the Steering Committee in linking to the Praia Group on Governance Statistics and the importance of the two initiatives working closely together.
- **H.E. Ms. Tone Skogen**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Norway** stressed the importance of leadership to delivering national solutions on SDG16 and the need to ensure consistency in collecting and reporting progress.
- **H.E. Amb. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas**, Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, **Mexico** reminded participants of the importance of open and transparent governments as a new frontier for democracy and noted that collaboration through the Global Alliance will encourage greater openness and transparency.
- **H.E. Dr. Samura Kamara**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, **Sierra Leone** referenced his country’s recent past to confirm the importance of respect for human rights as the underpinning for both peace and sustainable development. The Minister also highlighted Sierra Leone’s commitment to developing good governance institutions to sustain peace in the country.
- **H.E. Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of **Tunisia** confirmed that achieving the targets of SDG 16 has been one of the main concerns of Tunisians since the 2011 revolution. The Minister also pointed to the work of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, which demonstrates the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for securing a democratic transition.
- Other Member States made brief statements from the floor, including **Georgia**, **Nepal**, the **Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom**. Speakers took the opportunity to underline messages on: innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships; the importance of open government and e-governance; tackling inequality as a driver of potential conflict; taking a “whole of system” approach across the UN to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; turning commitment to SDG16 into tangible action; and the importance of inclusive processes in implementing SDG16.

Delivering the Key-Note Address, **H.E. Ms. Mary Robinson**, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, expressed her support for the Global Alliance, emphasizing the need to make the interlinkages between SDG16 and the whole of the 2030 Agenda visible. Ms. Robinson particularly stressed the interdependence between SDG5, SDG10, and SDG16, and referenced SDG4 on building a culture for peace, and SDG11 for delivering safe cities. Making a strong link to climate change, Ms. Robinson emphasized that the need for justice is at the heart of SDG13 – in terms of the injustice of over-consumption impacting hardest those least responsible for climate change, and eroding further the human rights of those already most vulnerable. Ms Robinson urged for truly participatory processes through SDG16 in identifying the most pressing climate problems, and monitoring progress to address them.



Following the Key-Note Address, moderator **Ms. Sarah Cliffe** from the NYU Center on International Cooperation, introduced the panel discussion and welcomed the focus that the Global Alliance will bring to implementation of SDG16, emphasizing the relationship between effective reporting and delivering on the Agenda. Ms. Cliffe also referred to initiatives on SDG16 working closely with the Global Alliance, including the “Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies”, and the “16+ Forum.”

- Speaking first, **Prof. Ibrahim Gambari**, Co-Chair, Commission on Global Security, Justice, & Governance said that time-bound action on reporting will be fundamental to effective delivery of SDG16 and that a dedicated focus is required on prevention, including early warning and early action.
- **Dr. Márcia Balisciano**, Group Director of Corporate Responsibility for RELX Group represented the contribution of the private sector to the Global Alliance, highlighting a range of initiatives where companies and entrepreneurs are already assisting reporting – including through LexisNexis’ Rule of Law Impact Tracker, the Eyewitness to Atrocities App, and key initiatives like the UN Global Compact’s Business for the Rule of Law Framework.
- **Mr. Savio Carvalho**, Senior Advisor, Campaigning on International Development and Human Rights, Amnesty International and Co-chair of the Steering Committee for the Transparency, Accountability, & Participation Network spoke of accountability as being the soul of the 2030 agenda itself. He stressed that civil society needs a safe and protected space to support Member States on reporting, whilst working to hold Member States to account on reporting, and for real follow up action to take place.
- Concluding the main panel, **Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relation and Partnerships, at The World Bank pointed to productive collaboration on data and reporting, including through the World Governance Indicators portfolio, and to helping the Alliance overcome challenges in data reporting and concerns over rating systems.
- Contributors to the discussion from the floor included representatives from the Goldman Sachs Foundation, Federal Public Defenders’ Office of Argentina, and Linklaters LLP.

Drawing the meeting to a close, **Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support delivered a statement from the **United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**. The Secretary-General noted the importance of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies as a defining characteristic of the 2030 Agenda. He concluded by saying that effective reporting to capture positive progress across the world in delivering priorities on good governance, the rule of law, and access to justice, will be essential to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

In his concluding remarks, **H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson**, President of the 71st General Assembly emphasized three positive aspects highlighted by the Global Alliance: the universality of the 2030 Agenda, the importance of innovative partnerships, and a need to focus on those most at risk of being left behind. He welcomed the collaborative nature of the Global Alliance in support of Member States, noting that there is no monopoly on wisdom, and he urged the Alliance to provide the tools necessary for Member States to be able to report their progress towards achieving SDG16.



To watch the archived event, click [here](#) and follow us on twitter, #SDG16Alliance.

In order to become a member of the ***Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies***, a formal expression of interest from Member States, civil society, and the private sector should be submitted to the Secretariat via [chelsea.shelton@undp.org](mailto:chelsea.shelton@undp.org).