

# SDG Targets for Fostering Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Agenda 2030 states that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.” Peace is identified as one of five areas of ‘critical importance for humanity and the planet’ – along with people, prosperity, the planet, and partnership:

*The new agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.*

Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice are addressed in the agenda, with inequality, corruption, poor governance, and illicit financial and arms flows specifically identified. Leaders commit to redoubling efforts to resolve or prevent conflict, and to supporting post-conflict countries.

SDG16 is the main goal for fostering “peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence,” but the agenda includes 24 targets from seven other SDGs that are linked to this aspiration:

- **Peaceful:** SDG16 targets for preventing and ending violence are supported by targets on gender-based violence (SDG5), various harmful and abusive practices (SDG5, 8 and 10), for safe environments of various kinds (SDG4, 8 and 11), and for promoting a culture of peace (4.7).
- **Just:** SDG16 targets for access to justice and rule of law, for legal identity, and for illicit flows and corruption are supported by a targets for discrimination and equality (SDG4, 5 and 10), and for employment and labor rights (SDG8).
- **Inclusive:** Targets for institutions and good governance are found in SDG1, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17, while SDG10 and 16 support the agenda’s commitment to ensuring all people can participate fully in society.

These targets, which we refer to as SDG16+, *directly* measure an aspect of peace, inclusion or access to justice. SDG16+ does not include areas of Agenda 2030 that contribute to the achievement of peace, or to a broader conception of a just and inclusive society. This would be a broader subset of targets, including those for employment, income growth, and inequality, for resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks, and for inclusive access to opportunities and services.

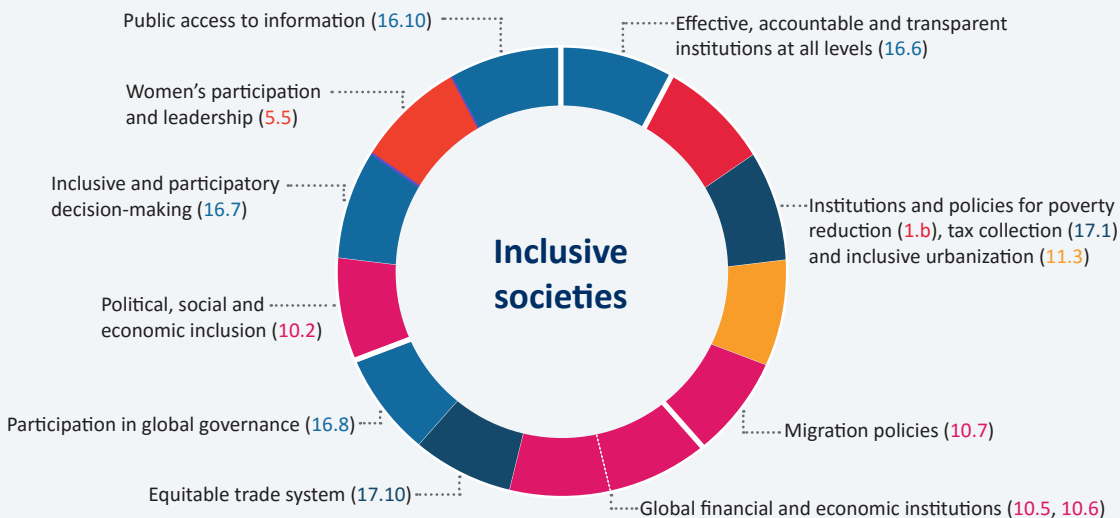
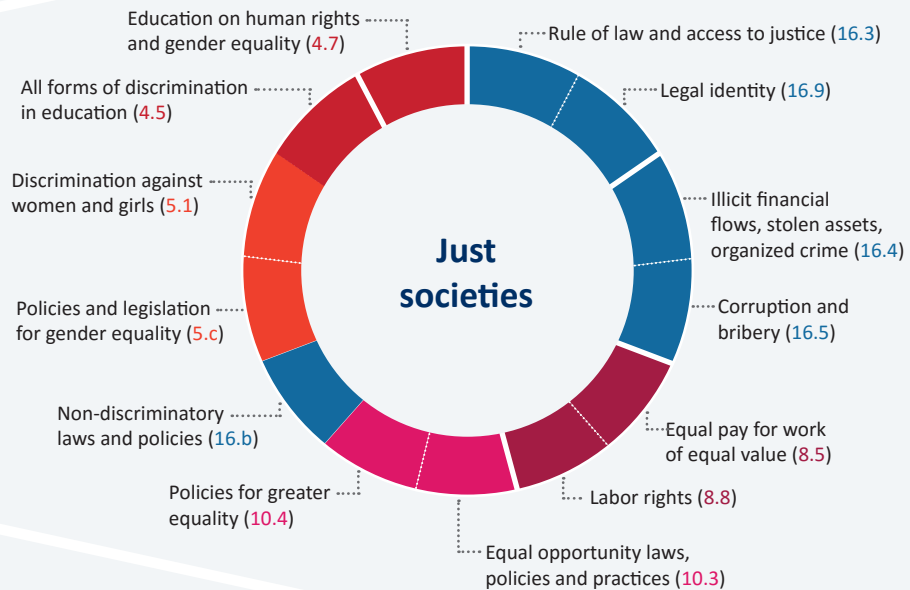
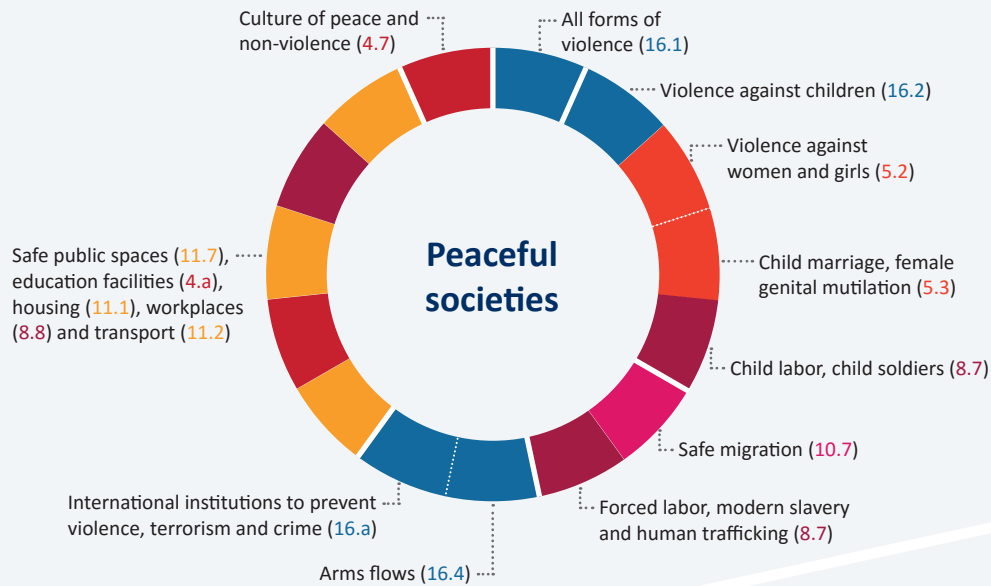
SDG16+ targets are also linked to Agenda 2030’s other four ‘P’s’: people, planet, prosperity and partnership. They envisage societies in which “all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.” They provide the institutions and enabling environment for sustained and inclusive growth, and for underpinning efforts to protect the planet. And, through their focus on strengthening international institutions and broadening participation at regional and global levels, they contribute to the revitalization of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

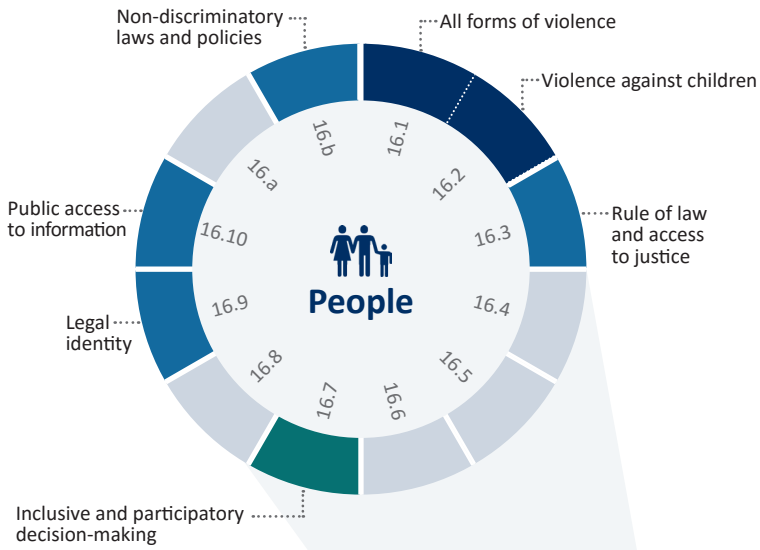
This briefing:

- Presents in graphical format the 36 SDG16+ targets, broken into the three clusters of peaceful, just and inclusive societies (page 2).
- Illustrates the direct links between the 12 targets from SDG16 and the rest of Agenda 2030 (page 3).
- Sets out six reasons why we need an integrated approach to peaceful, just and inclusive societies that includes, but is broader than, SDG16 (page 4).

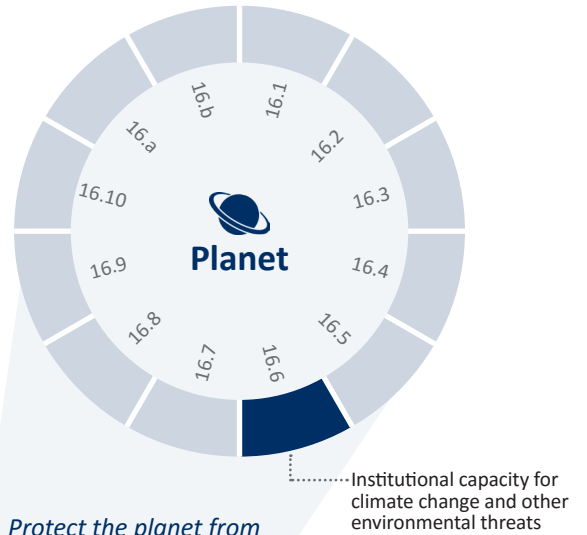


**We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.**





*Ensure all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality.*



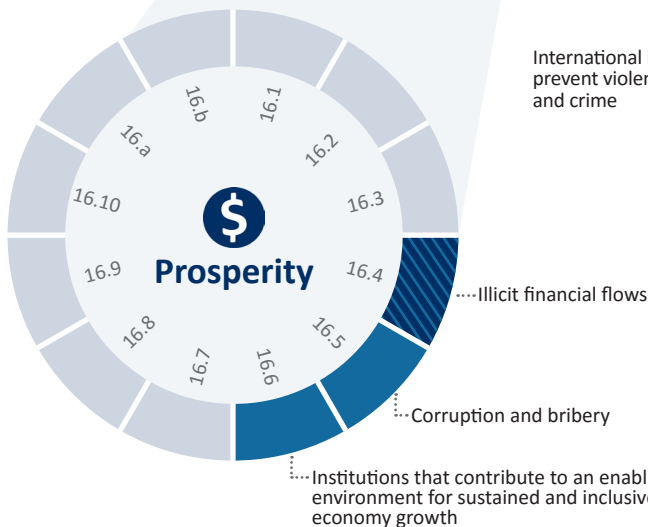
*Protect the planet from degradation so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.*



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

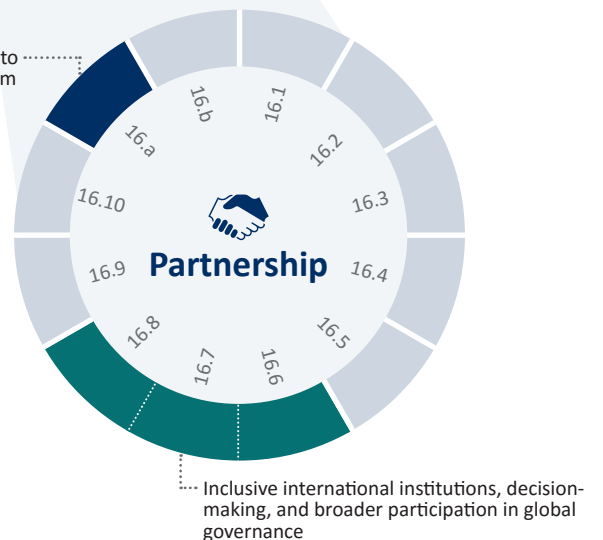
- Peaceful
- Just
- Inclusive

*Ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives.*



*A revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity.*

International institutions to prevent violence, terrorism and crime



## **Six reasons why we need an integrated approach to peaceful, just and inclusive societies.**

### **1 SDG16 was not designed to be isolated from other goals.**

Agenda 2030 is an indivisible agenda, with strong links between the goals. During the negotiations, governments made a deliberate decision to include targets for peaceful and inclusive societies in eight of the SDGs, with only a third of these targets to be found in SDG16. As the Agenda 2030 outcome document makes clear, these interlinkages are of “crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized.”

### **2 An integrated perspective strengthens the case for universality.**

The SDGs are universally applicable to all countries. An integrated perspective encourages all countries to take full account of the complex interactions between peace and sustainable development. The SDG16+ targets have a broader coverage of violence, abuse and exploitation; highlight the need for safe and inclusive environments; and offer a more holistic approach to good governance and institutions.

### **3 Integration emphasizes factors that entrench inequality in all societies.**

In all countries, those who are most likely to be left behind experience the highest levels of violence and are least likely to benefit from good governance and rule of law. An integrated perspective emphasizes links between SDG16 and goals for poverty and inequality, in line with the Agenda 2030 commitment to “an equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.”

### **4 A gender and human rights perspective is included.**

Agenda 2030 envisages “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity,” emphasizes the importance of equality and non-discrimination, and calls for a gender perspective to be mainstreamed into all goals and targets. Nine targets from other goals supplement SDG16.b on the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies, ensuring “all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality.”

### **5 Regional and global dimensions are strengthened.**

Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice often cross borders, while more inclusive and effective international governance and cooperation is essential to the delivery of Agenda 2030. More than 40% of the targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies are either wholly or partly international in their formulation, supporting the SDG16 target for broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

### **6 Implementation requires integrated approaches and collaborative partnerships.**

Delivery of the targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies requires multi-sectoral approaches that bring together actors from governance, justice, rights, public health, education, jobs, social welfare and protection. Tackling SDG16 in isolation will make it harder for these and other sectors to develop the shared strategies they need to work together effectively.

## Explanatory Notes

- The criteria for the selection of targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies are taken from the Agenda 2030 text and reflect the decisions made by member states in negotiating and agreeing the SDGs (see in particular, the preamble and paragraphs 8, 20 and 35).
- All targets were analyzed for references to: (i) peace and the prevention of all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation; (ii) equal access to justice and effective rule of law; (iii) equality, non-discrimination and respect for human rights; and (iv) transparent, effective and accountable institutions at national, regional and global levels. In addition, we also included targets which (v) refer to factors identified in the text as giving rise to violence, insecurity and injustice (inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial flows).
- This analysis yields a total of 36 SDG16+ targets (including 12 from SDG16). This is a conservative count. It does not include targets for increasing resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks (11.5, 11.b, 13.1, 17.13), especially for the poor (1.5), and for the management of global and national health risks (3d). Targets to tackle food insecurity (2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2c) are also excluded, as are those for income inequality (10.1) and inclusive industrialization (9.2).
- Some SDG16+ targets are relevant in their entirety, while others are only partially relevant. For example, SDG4.7 includes education for the “promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence” among other objectives and SDG11.7 includes reference to “safe public spaces.”
- In most cases, the breakdown of the SDG16+ targets into the three clusters of peaceful, just and inclusive societies is straightforward. However, there are some marginal cases. We have also taken the decision to place the targets for rights and non-discrimination in the *just societies* cluster, when they could also have been placed in the *inclusive* cluster.
- A small number of targets have been split between clusters. For example, SDG16.4 includes reducing arms flows (*peaceful societies* cluster) and as well as reducing illicit financial flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime (*just societies* cluster). As a result, 36 targets are mentioned in the graphic a total of 41 times.
- In all cases, targets have been abbreviated for space and readability. The full targets are included in an accompanying spreadsheet.
- Within each cluster, we have further grouped targets (marked by white lines in the text). These groups are intended only to help with analysis.
- The 15 targets in the *peaceful societies* cluster are placed into the following groups; (i) all forms of violence; (ii) violence against women and children; (iii) safe migration, forced labor and trafficking; (iv) violent crime, terrorism and arms flows; (v) safe spaces of all kinds; and (vi) a culture of peace and non-violence.
- The 13 targets in the *just societies* cluster are placed in the following groups: (i) justice and identity; (ii) illicit flows and corruption; (iii) labor rights; (iv) gender and other forms of non-discrimination; and (v) education on gender and rights.
- The 13 targets in the *inclusive societies* cluster are placed in the following groups: (i) institutions at all levels; (ii) specific institutions and policies; (iii) global institutions and governance; and (iv) participation, inclusion and transparency.
- Targets for SDG16 are categorized to show their direct relevance to *people*, *planet*, *prosperity*, and *partnership*. The graphic on page 3 demonstrates that SDG16, like other goals, must not be seen in isolation from the rest of the agenda.