

SIERRA LEONE ANNUAL SHOWCASE CONCEPT NOTE



Sixteen
Plus Forum

7–10 October 2018
Freetown
Sierra Leone



World Federation of United Nations Associations



What Is SDG 16?

2 In many ways the bedrock of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (SDG 16) is about governance, inclusion and sustaining peace. 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.

SDG 16+, which includes SDG 16, its related 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and its links to other UN agendas, such as Sustaining Peace, offers an opportunity to help realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole, and to deliver on the promise of societies free from fear and violence.

What Is the 16+ Forum?

A partnership between the Member States of Australia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the G7+ and the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA), the 16+ Forum provides a platform to learn from best practices, while applying SDG 16+ as a lynchpin from which to strengthen interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, and to other agendas, such as Sustaining Peace. In short, the 16+ Forum demonstrates SDG 16+ in policy and practice, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and across countries and contexts.

With an eye to the 2019 High-Level Political Forums and beyond, the 16+ Forum, in collaboration with partner initiatives and networks, aims to advance SDG 16+ and add to its momentum by showcasing practical steps taken towards its implementation – successes, challenges, lessons learned and solutions.



What Is the Annual Showcase?

The Annual Showcase is a collective undertaking to demonstrate SDG 16+ in action - what implementation looks like, how to go about it, and what the best practices are going forward. Announced in 2016, the inaugural Annual Showcase was held in the fall of 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia, bringing together representatives of governments, civil society, the UN, academia and the private sector. The second 16+ Forum Annual Showcase will be held in Freetown from 7-10 October, 2018.

With Sierra Leone as host, this Annual Showcase will open with a focus on its national experiences, including factors that engendered the country's decade-long civil war, such as social exclusion, corruption, inequalities and injustice, as well as the recent 2018 elections, lessons learned and opportunities for the country going forward. As connected to key findings from the inaugural Showcase, overarching themes around the importance of inclusion and national ownership, coordination and collaboration, civil society partnerships, data and the practice of prevention, sustaining peace and access to justice will play a prominent role in Sierra Leone discussions.

What Will We Achieve?

In a sea of High-level Political Forums, UN General Assemblies, multilateral agendas and international conferences, the Annual Showcase offers a focus on SDG 16+ implementation at national and community levels. It presents a forum for policy makers and thought-leaders to connect related work across the 2030 Agenda to other agendas, including that of Sustaining Peace, amidst evolving peace and security architecture.

The Annual Showcase is complemented by side-events throughout the year, held primarily around the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July and UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September to bring lessons from the country-level to New York. In anticipation of the inaugural Showcase, the first Mid-Year Expo was held in July 2017, followed by events focused on inclusion, civil society and SDG 16+.



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In 2018, the 16+ Forum significantly strengthened its partnership with the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Global Alliance) and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Pathfinders) to more effectively, coherently and collaboratively drive and deliver upon SDG 16+. In addition to expert level retreats and webinars, the three initiatives held a joint high-level HLPF side event, "Standing up for SDG 16+, the Path to 2019", and look forward to holding a subsequent joint event during the 2018 UN General Assembly.

The 2nd 16+ Forum Annual Showcase in Sierra Leone would then provide the next "milestone" for the movement behind SDG 16+.

Why Sierra Leone?

2018 SIERRA LEONE ANNUAL SHOWCASE

From national cohesion and the promotion of peace, to strengthening inclusive processes and institutions, bolstering anti-corruption efforts and delivering on access to justice for all, this Annual Showcase will open with a focus on Sierra Leone. Global leadership, as well as national-level experiences and ambition make Sierra Leone a highly relevant and timely host for this second 16+ Forum Annual Showcase.

As Chair of the g7+, Sierra Leone has demonstrated its commitment to peace, prevention, justice and inclusive politics – all issues central, if not fundamental, to the New Deal Principles and to SDG 16+. As a founding member of the 16+ Forum, as well as a key member of the Pathfinders and Global Alliance, Sierra Leone has further demonstrated its leadership on SDG 16+, particularly at an international level. It was one of the first countries to ever conduct a Voluntary National Review during HLPF 2016 and has already registered its intention to present a Voluntary National Report at the HLPF 2019 during which SDG 16 will be reviewed, among others.

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For these reasons alone, hosting the 2nd 16+ Forum Annual Showcase in Freetown is appropriate. However, this Showcase also comes at a particularly important juncture in the contemporary history of Sierra Leone itself.

Relatively peaceful, presidential elections held in March of this year saw a change of government and with it the launch of a “New Direction”. In the New Direction Manifesto¹, President Julius Maada Bio outlined an ambitious set of national objectives and policy priorities across ministries, institutions, constituencies and partners. Drawing upon the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the “New Direction” highlights the importance of inclusion and inclusivity in institutions, cohesion, accountability and rule of law as central to the success of Sierra Leone. It further aims to translate national aspirations of becoming a middle-income country by 2035 into tangible achievements.

With SDG 16+ as both an overarching driver of this new development agenda, and directly relevant to a set of cluster priorities, this Annual Showcase is intended to be used by government stakeholders, civil

¹ The New Direction Manifesto, Presidential Public State Opening Address, May 10, 2018; <https://statehouse.gov.sl/presidential-public-state-opening-address/>

society partners and others as a mechanism to build momentum and strengthen processes, collaboration and partnerships related to the finalization of Sierra Leone's national development plan, its implementation and the SDG Investment Framework².

Providing space for additional focus on those stated priorities around peace and national cohesion, violence prevention, inclusive and effective institutions, human rights, anti-corruption and access to justice for all, this Showcase will highlight particular mechanisms and modalities- from Commissions to Acts of Parliament, planned and in place, and planned, to bring SDG 16+ to reality. With a newly elected government, 2018 marks a critical moment for Sierra Leone and its partners to identify and act upon priority areas.

The Sierra Leone Annual Showcase then provides a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities at a critical and sensitive juncture. With an eye to HLPF 2019, this global gathering also adds momentum to the SDG 16+ movement, across contexts and countries, including those reporting at HLPF 2019.

In addition to Sierra Leone, various other national and regional experiences will be highlighted. Practical lessons on implementation, the value of scaling existing SDG 16+ related policies and programmes that are in-place and working, and the critical importance of civil society and multi-stakeholder partnerships will be drawn upon. Collating solutions and best practices shared, an Outcome Document is then to be produced based on discussions in Freetown. For reference, the 2017 Outcome Document from the inaugural Annual Showcase in Tbilisi can be found here: www.wfuna.org/16-forum-annual-showcase-2017.

Outcomes

The Annual Showcase aims to highlight the how, what, when and who of SDG 16+ implementation, thereby encouraging its implementation across a greater number of contexts while bringing best, multi-stakeholder practices to the fore. Specifically, the Sierra Leone Showcase will:

- Hold a capacity-building workshop for civil society on 7 October, focused on SDG 16+ advocacy, implementation and reporting, drawing out interlinkages not only across the 2030 Agenda, but also to the New Deal³ and Sustaining Peace⁴.
- Highlight SDG 16+ implementation strategies, policies and programming, including, but not limited to National Development Agendas and Strategic Plans.
- Demonstrate interlinkages in practice across the 2030 agenda, as well as to the New Deal and Sustaining Peace.
- Link the global conversation with regional, national and sub-national policy, partnerships and implementation.



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² The SDG Investment Framework to 2030; <https://bit.ly/2HbqnN0>.

³ International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (2011), <https://bit.ly/1PvZ5RO>

⁴ United Nations Secretary-General's report of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (2018); <https://bit.ly/2Pw6ju1>

- Produce an Outcome Document, to be submitted as official input to HLPF 2019, to complement follow-up and review efforts.
- Help to build a movement for SDG 16+, in the lead up to HLPF 2019 and beyond, as articulated in the Challenge Paper⁵, composed by the Pathfinders, the Global Alliance and 16+ Forum.

universality of SDG 16, its related targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies across the 2030 Agenda, and its links to Sustaining Peace.

In addition to the themes noted directly below, independent case studies, research and frameworks will be presented, again focusing on practical steps and inclusive processes needed to reach meaningful and sustainable implementation.

Opening with a focus on Sierra Leone, the provisional flagship theme will be Peaceful Societies: Prevention, Cohesion and Addressing the Root Causes of Conflict. The secondary themes will be: Inclusive Societies: Strengthening Institutions and Participatory Decision-Making Processes; and Just Societies: Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Good Governance.

For each plenary and break-out sessions, irrespective of theme, a variety of country, regional and global contexts will be highlighted and discussed. As these themes are linked in practice, overlap will be present in interventions and experiences shared.



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6 As in the past, 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’.

Conference Themes

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

Format and Participants

The 2018 Sierra Leone Annual Showcase will comprise of a 4-day conference (7-10 October) to engage global and national policy makers and practitioners on SDG16+ implementation. The first day, Sunday, will be dedicated to civil society and consist of a capacity-building workshop for local, national, regional and international CSOs. The remainder of the Showcase, entitled the Main Conference, will consist of field visits (8 October), followed by plenary and break-out sessions (9-10 October). Plenaries and break-out sessions on the 10th will be largely shared and held in association with the Pathfinders’ 2nd Taskforce on Justice.

⁵ The Path to HLPF 2019: from ambition to results for SDG 16+, a Challenge Paper as drafted by the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the 16+ Forum; <https://bit.ly/2o0QZJz>



The conference is expected to involve approximately 120 participants from an estimated 20 countries. Participants will include:

Government: governments will be requested to propose one representative from capital (or otherwise relevant location in-country) and one representative from the diplomatic mission to the UN. The aim is to have government participants that are knowledgeable about what is being done in her or his country on SDG 16+, able to share and build upon such experiences, and return better equipped for future related policies and implementation. Members of the 16+ Forum will be core participants.

Civil Society: civil society representatives form a critical component of the Showcase. Outreach efforts will ensure that local, national, regional and international civil society representatives are able to attend and contribute throughout the Showcase. While the majority will be from Sierra Leone (Freetown and the provinces), the Showcase provides a useful platform to bring the larger SDG 16+ CSO community together, from grassroots to global organizations.

United Nations System: The UN Resident Coordinator and relevant members of the Country Team are anticipated to participate. Other UN representatives from a more regional level or HQ may also participate, lending various levels of expertise to discussions.

Regional Organizations: Marking a slight departure from the inaugural Showcase, the Sierra Leone Showcase is to include a regional organization component. Therefore, it is hoped to have the participation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), among others. Given the importance of regional

organizations to this context, and to global debates around sustaining peace and sustainable development, their participation is hoped for and anticipated.



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Private Sector: national representatives from the private sector, including from local businesses and the entrepreneurship community, will be invited to attend. Global representatives will also be invited to attend, including in coordination with the UN Global Compact and partners of the 16+ Forum, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.