

Voluntary National Reviews for more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: SDG16+ and the 2024 High-level Political Forum

Snapshot:

- **What:** An SDG16/VNR-focused workshop targeting member state representatives in capital and in New York, as well as civil society partners. The workshop aims to identify similarities and differences in SDG16 reporting/key messages in VNRs being presented at HLPF this year from a cross-regional perspective, and amplify common messaging on SDG16 therein. It will also highlight good practices in SDG16/VNR follow-up, as well as innovative research on SDG16+ policy and its interlinkages across the SDGs, including with those also under review at HLPF 2024.
- **When:** 9:00am – 11:00am EST, Tuesday, 9 April 2024.
- **Where:** Hybrid event, with capital engagement online (zoom link to be shared closer to date) and New York participation hosted at the Permanent Mission of Spain (885 2nd Ave #36, NYC). Coffee and refreshments to be provided.
- **Organizers:** Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, in partnership with UNDP and with the support of UN DESA.

Context:

SDG16 is under review at this year's High-level Political Forum in July 2024. As we work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the world is facing multiple and intersecting crises, including escalating violence and conflict, inequalities, climate change and a breakdown in trust at all levels. Against this backdrop, SDG16+, with its emphasis on peace, justice, equality and inclusion, and its practical and tangible interlinkages with other SDGs, provides a way forward.

Investing in SDG16+ is vital to fast-tracking the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its second half, as well as to rebuilding trust between and among people, governments, and the multilateral system. With a focus on HLPF 2024, as well as with an eye to the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the World Social Summit in 2025, and the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, among other processes, this workshop aims to highlight where progress has been made, while amplifying the critical need for further action on SDG16+ and its interlinkages to deliver for people and planet.

Objective:

In this context, the Pathfinders, in partnership with UNDP and with the support of UN DESA, will hold this workshop to explore commonalities and differences in countries' VNR key messages on SDG16, amplifying shared messaging therein across countries and regions.

Bringing together member state focal points in capitals and UN permanent missions, as well as civil society partners, UN representatives, and the Pathfinders Secretariat, the workshop will also draw out good practices and lessons learned on SDG16+ in VNRs and follow-up. To this end, it will highlight the critical role of civil society in developing, sensitizing, and following up on VNRs. It will also draw upon the latest findings from research on SDG16+ policy solutions and interlinkages between SDG16 and other SDGs, including those focused on climate, poverty, inequality, hunger and partnership.

Member states not presenting this year are also very much welcome and encouraged to participate and share in this exchange.

Detailed objectives:

Specifically, the workshop will aim to:

- Facilitate an exchange between member states submitting VNRs at this year's HLPF on key messages from their countries' VNRs on SDG16 and its interlinkages across other SDG priorities. This will help identify commonalities and differences, to potentially feed into key messages.
- Facilitate exchange between member states and civil society on lessons learned in pre/post-VNR processes to advance recommendations and meaningfully consult and partner with other stakeholders, notably civil society, before and after the VNR itself.
- Share latest findings on interlinkages and their practical implementation in policies at national level, including from UNDP, the Pathfinders Secretariat, and other partners.
- Explore opportunities for mainstreaming/sharing these key messages at HLPF, at other international fora preceding HLPF, such as the SDG16 Conference in New York and the Expert Group Meeting on SDG16, as well as subsequent milestones, including the Summit of the Future and other relevant intergovernmental processes, as mentioned.