

PATHFINDERS

FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
HOSTED BY THE NYU CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLUTIONS, IMPACT, AND
BRIDGE-BUILDING IN AN
ERA OF TRANSFORMATION

WHO WE ARE

In an era of rapid global change, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Pathfinders) is a cross-regional and member state-led, multi-stakeholder coalition committed to advancing action on peace, justice, equality and inclusive institutions through the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond (SDG16+). It is convened by 46 governments, works with over 100 partners across civil society, the United Nations (UN), and regional and international organizations, and is hosted by the [Center on International Cooperation](#) at New York University. (See Annex for more on countries, partners, and SDG16+).



PEACE IN OUR CITIES REGIONAL MEETING IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

WHAT WE DO

Working with member states and partners, Pathfinders provides **research, policy, convening, and partnerships** to advance action on SDG16+ at all levels of governance. More specifically, and through its four programs, Pathfinders:

- Supports evidence-based policy and implementation at regional, national, and subnational levels.
- Brings together leaders, reformers, and experts at all levels to share lessons learned and achieve results—often acting as a bridge between and across governments, civil society, local communities, and multilateral institutions.
- Utilizes key global intergovernmental processes and milestones to protect gains, amplify solutions, and highlight links between SDG16+ and other multilateral agendas.

Focused on people, Pathfinders' theory of change rests on two dynamics: **national results and international action are mutually reinforcing**; and that **governments, civil society and multilateral institutions need to work together for sustainable and strategic change**.



2016-2024: In the first half of the SDGs, Pathfinders set the normative SDG16+ framework through its Roadmap, informed global agendas, launched the four programs, and created action-driven coalitions with high-level political support and expertise to deliver local and national change.

2024-2030: Now in the second half of the SDGs, Pathfinders continues to expand its reach in driving cross-regional SDG16+ action, addressing interlinked challenges amid crises, and shaping the global development agenda.

WHY WE DO IT

We face extraordinary and interconnected crises: from violence and conflict to rising inequalities, a global justice gap affecting billions of people, climate and displacement, and crippling global debt. At the center of these dynamics are governance systems struggling to cope, amid unregulated technology and a growing digital divide, a backsliding of human rights and democracy, and an increase in polarization and distrust between people and institutions.

While profound, these challenges are not insurmountable. Evidence shows that peace, justice, equality, and inclusion are not only achievable— with dividends across development, economic and security priorities—but also critical to navigating current and future crises.

Against a backdrop of seismic shifts, **Pathfinders provides a platform to amplify solutions, support changemakers, build bridges, and drive real impact in people’s lives, universally.** As a buffer against instability and as a driver of equitable growth and opportunity; as an anchor and as an objective, SDG16+ is not a nice to have, but a must have.

PATHFINDERS EVENT ON VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS DURING THE UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN NEW YORK, USA. JULY 2024.

HISTORY AND OUR PROGRAMS

Established in 2016 with the groundbreaking [Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) at its foundation, Pathfinders has shaped the global discourse on what it means to advance SDG16+, while supporting practical results at regional and country level with impact across sectors, from health and housing to green transitions and digitalization.

At the heart of its work are the three programs: Halving Global Violence, Justice for All, and Inequality and Exclusion, with cross-pillar engagement from the Global SDG16+ team.

Launched at different times, each program has loosely followed the same model:

Research and evidence-based policy solutions



Flagship report



Multi-level policy and programmatic action

Through coalitions, networks and targeted engagement with governments, the UN, civil society and others.



Halving Global Violence

This team brings together communities of practice to address interlinked forms of violence and achieve SDG targets for peace. Spearheaded by the high-level Halving Global Violence (HGV) Task Force—a coalition of global leaders and experts committed to significantly reducing violence. Co-chaired by ministerial-level representatives from member states and advised by experts from international bodies, academia, and civil society, the Task Force aims to halve global violence by focusing on reducing violence outside of conflict zones, where it is most prevalent and offers the greatest return on investment. Its flagship report, [*Beyond the Battlefields: Practical Strategies to Reduce Violence in our Homes, Streets, and Communities*](#), highlights the prevalence of interpersonal violence, its human and economic costs, and actionable solutions to address it.

HGV also includes two initiatives that are making measurable progress towards our goal and actively saving lives with their work: [*Peace in Our Cities*](#) a global network of city leaders and partners tackling urban violence in their communities, and the [*Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control*](#), comprised of women leaders from around the world representing multiple sectors advancing the implementation of gender-responsive small arms control.

Justice for All

Building on the Task Force on Justice's flagship [*Justice for All report*](#), this team aims to close the global justice gap by placing justice at the heart of sustainable development and people at the center of justice systems. It focuses on justice problems, preventing injustices, and enabling full participation in society and the economy. To implement the guidance of the Justice for All report, a group of countries joined forces with intergovernmental organizations and other partners to form the [*Justice Action Coalition*](#) (JAC), for which Pathfinders, alongside the UN Development Programme and in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, serve as its Secretariat. The JAC aims to bolster political and financial support for people-centered justice and achieve measurable improvements in justice outcomes for people by 2030.

Alongside the JAC, this program has built a global people-centered justice movement, shaping the global narratives and policies at all levels through advocacy, peer exchange, data, and best practices. Regionally, the [*Ibero-American Alliance for Access to Justice*](#) and the [*African Alliance for People-Centered Justice*](#) unite governments, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations to advance people-centered approaches and link them to multilateral efforts. Thematic programs at the intersection of justice and youth engagement, displaced populations, women, children, climate, conflict, and customary and informal justice showcase how access to justice can undergird the 2030 Agenda, ensure no one is left behind, and foster collaboration across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Inequality and Exclusion

This team identifies practical and politically viable solutions to combat income, wealth, and group-based inequalities, which fuel economic, social, and political grievances and are exacerbated by divisive and polarizing narratives. Building on the flagship report, [*From Rhetoric to Action: Delivering Equality and Inclusion*](#), the program continues to offer policy options drawing from partnerships with governments, academia, and civil society, as well as research on solutions and good practices. It also hosts the [*Inequality Solutions portal*](#), offering a collection of policies across sectors—from justice systems to renewable energy and tax reforms—drawing on experiences from dozens of countries and demonstrating that change is possible.

These initiatives support nationally driven approaches to renewing social contracts and achieving the equality and inclusion targets of the 2030 Agenda. The program regularly publishes cutting-edge research on the links between inequalities, polarization, and disinformation; as well as on specific areas such as just green transitions, housing and urban inequalities, tax cooperation and other relevant topics in the international inequality agenda. This program's cross-regional coalition of countries calls for transformative action to address the causes of inequality, exclusion, and division, exploring the connections with the climate crisis, economic development, and inclusive policymaking.

Global SDG16+ Team

Working closely with the three other programs and across CIC, this team supports Pathfinders' leadership in "keeping SDG16+ on the global agenda," providing a trusted space for dialogue, exchange, and collaboration. From cross-regional convenings with member states at ambassadorial and expert levels to practical input for negotiations, high-level statements and publications, regular engagement across a myriad of partners, and bringing country-driven policies and approaches to global spaces, the team works to support government and multistakeholder action on SDG16+. This also includes SDG16+ mainstreaming with development partners and leveraging global events and partnerships for sustainable change.

As the world approaches 2030, the SDG16+ team continues to weave a "golden thread" between past and future milestones, reinforcing the central importance of SDG16+ to any global development agenda—as a goal and proven enabler of the SDGs and as a central to navigating crises, particularly amid the evolving global order.

ANNEXES

PATHFINDERS MEMBER STATES

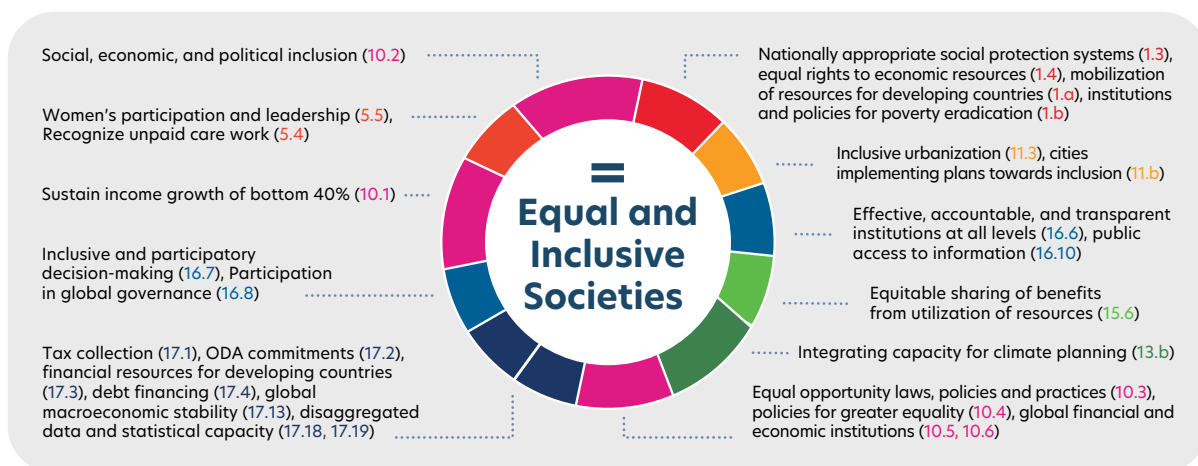
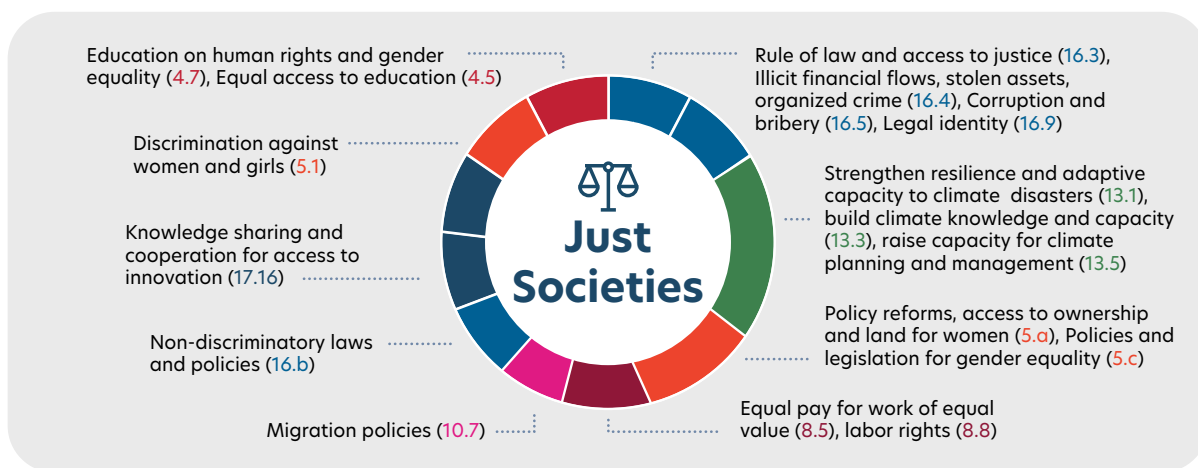
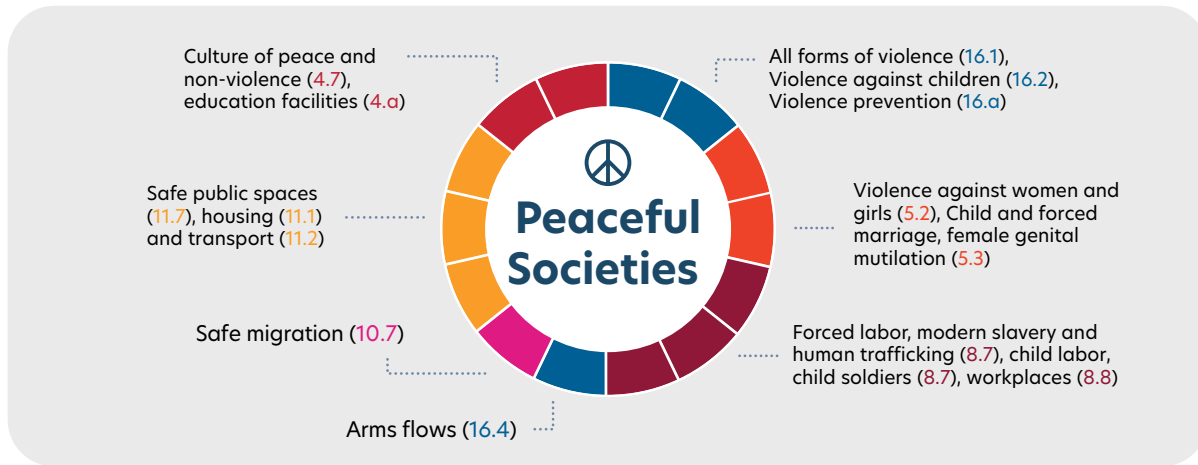


*Currently inactive

FEATURED PARTNERS

ABBAD, ACCORD, Africa Center for Excellence in Access to Justice, Alliance 8.7, Asociación para Políticas Públicas, Center for Global Development, CIVICUS, Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Cordaid, Fight Inequality Alliance, Forum on the Arms Trade, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security, Global Center for Pluralism, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, ILF, International Center for Transitional Justice, International Development Law Organization, International IDEA, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Trade Union Confederation, Instituto Igarapé, Inuka Foundation, g7+, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego, Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law, Legal Empowerment Fund, London School of Economics International Inequalities Institute, Namati, ODI Global, Open Government Partnership, Open Society Foundations, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Oxfam, Peace One Day, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Sierra Leone Urban Research Center, Small Arms Survey, Stanley Center for Peace and Security, TAP Network, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Terres des Hommes, The Elders, United Cities and Local Governments, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, UN Commission for Africa, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN Global Compact, UN Habitat, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Office at Geneva, UNICEF, UN Women, University of Strathclyde, Violence, Inequality and Power Lab, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Justice Project, Zolberg Institute at the New School for Social Research

SDG16+ TARGETS



JOIN US

Through collaboration, facts-based insights, and solutions-driven actions, Pathfinders has built a movement of champions across all levels of institutions, and from a multitude of sectors. Join us in advancing SDG16+—a commitment to peace, justice, equality, and inclusion as cornerstones of universal development.

Contact us at pathfinders@sdg16plus | www.sdg16.plus/contact