REPORT

Stakeholders E-consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

June 2019

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Background:

When adopting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States decided to undertake thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cross-cutting issues.

Member States have also decided that the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, would discuss a set of SDGs and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all SDGs over the course of a four-year cycle, with means of implementation, including SDG 17, reviewed annually.

In 2019, the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC (9-18 July), will finalize the first cycle of thematic reviews with in-depth analysis of the following SDGs:

- **SDG 4**. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- **SDG 8**. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- **SDG 10**. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- **SDG 13**. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- **SDG 16**. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- **SDG 17**. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

About the Stakeholders E-consultation:

Major groups and stakeholders were invited to participate in an E-consultation on the SDGs under review at the 2019 HLPF between January 2019 and 22 February 2019. The E-consultation opportunity was broadly shared across various networks and social media channels. The E-Consultation was meant to

improve stakeholders' access to information and promote broad and participatory engagement on the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda implementation. It complements/feeds into other on-going processes for the SDG-specific reviews, including Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) organized by DESA/DSDG.

E-Consultation Questions

A limited number of questions were proposed for each SDG under review, and major groups and other stakeholders were invited to contribute concise and straightforward inputs. The questions asked regarding each SDG were:

- Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards the goal?

- Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards the goal?

- How can one best leverage the interlinkages between the specific goal and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

- Examples of effective models of multi-stakeholder engagement for the implementation of the SDG.

E-consultation Summary

A total of 637 responses were received, covering all the SDGs under review. This report presents the main messages from stakeholders SDGs

This report provides a summary of main points identified through this e-consultations.

All inputs are available for reference at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019/econsultation.

SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – Summary of stakeholders inputs

A total of 223 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to **SDG 4**. All SDG 4 submissions can be reviewed [here](#).

Stakeholders contributing to the e-consultation on SDG 4 are mostly represented by NGOs (46.2% of the submissions), and education and academic entities (40.4%). Major groups representative of women made up (17%) and children and youth (16.6%). Local governments (1.3%), private philanthropic organizations (2.2%) and business and industry (3.1%) also submitted contributions.

Inputs recognized the importance of SDG 4 for the progress of the 2030 Agenda including school education, but also lifelong learning and training. They highlighted the importance of a gendered approach, a modernization of education, the recognition of vulnerable communities' knowledge, and education providing skills for a changing labour market as well as for quality education for all. Lifelong learning, communication, and the involvement of all communities and stakeholders were described as an important tool to leverage the interlinkages between SDG 4 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda.

Inputs addressed several aspects of education covered under SDG 4. Key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what are the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 4?

Contributors highlighted the importance of implementing a gendered approach to education for accelerating progress towards SDG 4. This includes financial and logistical support for women and girls, employment of female teachers, the inclusion of reproductive and sexual rights education, and increased encouragement of women to study sciences, engineering, and technology. Several inputs called for ensuring that all girls and women can equitably attend schools and learning facilities. They pointed out that learning facilities (e.g. schools and training centers) and other institutions need to enable girls and women to attend by ensuring that safe, gender separated, and accessible sanitation facilities (e.g. school toilets) are usable, including measures for safe and dignified menstrual hygiene management.

Enhancing girls' education with access to water (submitted by International Presentation Association)

In Zambia a community-based project on "IPA engagement in the 2030 Agenda to create the future we want" resulted in identifying access to safe drinking water as an issue that affected the school and the neighborhood community. Collaborative efforts by the local government, the local community, the school administration, students, youth and the faith-based NGO resulted in a community well and a hand pump that provides drinking water for the school and 100 households. This has resulted in girls being free to attend school instead of staying home to bring water from distant places and children

having access to safe drinking water effectively heling to advance progress toward multiple SDG targets.

Many contributors called for an improvement in the quality of and access to teaching and learning materials in schools to help to prepare people with skills for current employment demands. Others noted that formal follow-up reviews would support assessments of the effectiveness of education and the distribution of opportunities and quality between rural and urban areas, in providing equal opportunities for women, indigenous groups, and people with disabilities, and in meeting the employment needs of current labour markets.

Several ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 were suggested such as: increasing training scholarships for indigenous peoples, establishing and expanding credible post-school education and training institutions, and establishing or improving organizations and networks for unemployed youth and adults in both rural areas and large metropolitan communities. Multilingual education was noted as an effective form of expanding access to education along with the inclusion of indigenous knowledge, history, and identity in educational materials.

There were a number of suggestions regarding how to improve communication and awareness as a means of accelerating progress towards SDG 4. These suggestions included:

- Increasing communication regarding links between education and aspects of nutrition, food security, and the protection of women and children;

- Support media and campaigns to raise awareness on the importance of education and its foundational role in building society;

- Support meetings, seminars and workshops about the importance of education and policy options with government departments on local and national levels;

- Engage economic and social partners (trade unions, employer organizations etc.) to address shortcomings in education and training, achieve lifelong learning, and provide adequate funding;

- Use of international thematic days to raise awareness on specific topics;

- Increase awareness through stakeholder networks;

- Identify and award champions in advancing education including educators, students, and institutions.

In order to achieve many of the targets of SDG 4, some contributors stated that clear guidelines and plans of action with indicators developed at the local level would assist marginalized and disenfranchised people, and increase their access to information and participation. It was noted that guidelines and plans of action should identify, disseminate, and support existing effective policy and practice in SDG-related teaching and learning, support education providers to further develop effective curricula that integrate SDG-related issues into students' experiences, ensure the SDGs are featured in teacher education programmes, establish national and regional communications strategies that promote and review progress of the SDGs, and establish a mandate for universities to implement the SDGs into their courses and research.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 4?

The contributors of the e-consultation identified several areas which can be improved to overcome shortfalls and fill gaps in progress towards SDG 4. The gaps described included insufficient recognition of the different challenges between urban and rural areas including differences in funding and resources, inadequate prioritization of training for a changing economy, lack of policy implementation and monitoring structures for lifelong learning, insufficient funding or financing for teacher training and educational resources, and a lack of knowledge on the part of educational authorities on the rights of persons with disabilities.

> **Education for children with disabilities (submitted by Coalición por el derecho a una educación inclusiva)**
>
> In Peru, the Coalition for the Right to Inclusive Education seeks to call attention on the quality of education provided to children with disabilities and those not attending school and staying home (estimated in around 45%).

The need to avoid parallel funding mechanisms and the proliferation of fragmented education efforts was also recognized. Systems that seem to discriminate by privileging those who can afford quality education over those who cannot need to be discouraged by providing quality education opportunities for all children, youth and adults regardless of socioeconomic class.

Inputs called upon paying greater attention to economic changes, and the education and training needs required to fill jobs. Contributions pointed to challenges such as those associated with the digital age and the growing digital divide that will require dedicated networks, organizations and resources for providing information on educational pathways and programs which include information about labor market opportunities.

Gaps also exist in the support of marginalized and excluded youth and adults. Suggestions to overcome this included the idea that groups should be supported with mentorship opportunities and information about educational programs. In addition, various inputs called for more value to be put on informal learning and for resources for informal forms of education. Finally, gaps in education policy coherence need to be considered in relation to the targets of SDG 4 and should be communicated and filled at every level of society, including in the languages of minority groups.

> **Equal education for all (submitted by Universidad Pedagógica de Durango)**
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> In the State of Durango, Mexico, Multigrid and Multilevel Basic Education Schools were implemented with the idea of promoting inclusion by not labeling students according to their date of birth, allowing young people, adults and infants to share classrooms to learn in community.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 4 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

Many contributors noted that SDG 4 has reciprocal links with almost all the other SDGs and that leveraging these linkages could accelerate progress towards both SDG 4 and all other goals.

There were many valuable contributions on how to leverage the interlinkages between SDG 4 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda. Multiple inputs described how SDG 4 is key to the realization of all the other SDGs

and their targets because knowledge and skills are fundamental for people to understand and achieve Agenda 2030.

Figure 1 - Word Cloud for SDG 4 inputs

A number of suggestions for leveraging the interlinkages between SDG 4 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda were provided. Many of these highlighted the need for governments to involve communities, youth and other partners to improve all education related policies and services; invest in innovation and quality data as a means to deliver educational results in areas such as employment training that also contributes to Agenda 2030 as a whole; improve cross-sectoral and inter-institutional actions in education; increase and improve financial investments in education with effective equity formulas to achieve results for all; and include education about the SDGs in curricula for education at all stages of life. It was proposed that this could be achieved by establishing cross-departmental policy and planning groups within governments and educational institutions that are collaborate with key stakeholder implementation groups working towards the 2030 Agenda.

Various inputs proposed that annual reporting and review processes which are SDG-specific should be integrated into educational programmes. It was suggested that governments should establish expert and stakeholder groups to consider and review where interlinkages could and should be made. It was noted that an overarching SDG education plan could provide a formal stepping stone for establishing the interlinkages between SDG 4 and the other SDGs.

Inputs recognized that for indigenous peoples, education both in their own context and in the formal sphere is important for achieving better development outcomes for indigenous peoples that can help contribute to successfully reaching the entire 2030 Agenda. It was noted that better appreciation of indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in education systems can help reduce hunger and poverty in indigenous communities, promote equality and help build safe, resilient and sustainable communities.

The value of indigenous education, Tebtebba (submitted by Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)

In the Philippines, several indigenous communities have set up their own community schools, called Lumad schools, with curricula adapted to their needs and priorities but still compliant with the requirements of the Department of Education. Others have set up Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs) which complement the regular school curricula and these schools are recognized and supported by the National Commission on the Culture and Arts. These SLTs are community-based, owned and managed. There are also schools set-up by religious organizations whose curricula are adapted to indigenous peoples conditions and aim to be culturally sensitive and promote indigenous knowledge systems and practices, human rights, identity and culture.

SDG 8. PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL – SUMMARY OF INPUTS

A total of 79 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to SDG 8. All submissions can be reviewed [here](#).

NGOs represented 38% of the inputs, followed by Workers and Trade Unions (26.6%) and Women (24.1%). Local Authorities (3.8%), Older Persons (5.1%), and Private Philanthropic Organizations (6.3%) also contributed inputs.

Inputs recognized the role sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth has on progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Many of them served as a reminder for the importance of social dialogue, of economic decoupling, and of ensuring that a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach is applied to development that includes civil society, government, UN and intergovernmental agencies, and academia. It was suggested that approaches to economic growth aligned closely with other development priorities such as health, social protection and gender equality.

Inputs addressed several aspects covered on SDG 8 and key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what are the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 8?

Various inputs described the need to promote the development of private entrepreneurship and support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises through incentives such as reducing taxation, creating a favorable business environment for the local private sector, promoting the creation of decent jobs and fighting against corruption and tax evasion. The need to ensure that international labor standards including freedom of association, access to collective bargaining and social dialogue are respected as they lay the foundations for decent working conditions, employment creation and fair and inclusive growth was demonstrated. Other inputs suggested that the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 8 would be through empowerment of women's economic rights. They noted that breaking down barriers, such as access to education, land, capital, and employment opportunities, would promote opportunities for women to become productive members of their communities. Empowering women and their economic rights drive long-term sustainability and growth. It was suggested that improving formal and legal documentation for entrepreneurs can help to encourage local level economic development. Indigenous entrepreneurship that helps to increase income status of indigenous peoples should be supported.

Multiple inputs described the role of agriculture in accelerating progress towards SDG 8 in the regional and local context. Contributors included the need to ensure land rights of women, indigenous and other marginalized communities. It was recognized that agricultural subsidies to small and marginalized farmers can encourage community farming. In addition, it was asked that further consideration be given to gender friendly innovations in sustainable green economic projects in such critical areas such as agricultural business schemes, social and digital entrepreneurship skills training and implementation

Inputs also suggested the use of effective media campaigns to educating citizens about the importance of investment and its role in the development of society.

Contributors agreed that governments must be fully aware of their obligation to train people with disabilities for work and that a wide range of policy interventions are necessary to accelerate progress. Inputs suggested that the most effective ways of reaching SDG 8 for people with disabilities include ensuring policy coherence for employment legislation and policies, aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; supporting people with disabilities to access employment through specific schemes and mainstreaming inclusion in employment support programs; and removing barriers that exist to employment including negative attitudes that exist towards people with disabilities.

Providing empowering opportunities to people with disabilities, (submitted by Sightsavers)

Sightsavers implements a range of projects with people with disabilities to increase economic empowerment. Through a multi-stakeholder approach, working with Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), employers and the government, focused on creating an enabling environment for people with disabilities to access employment and build their financial resilience. Their experience has shown that working with employers is critical, but without the voice and active participation of people with disabilities, or a progressive regulatory environment, it is difficult to make progress.

Inputs recommended that equitable compulsory education for all with opportunities for job-oriented skill training and entrepreneurship at the high school level can accelerate progress towards SDG 8. Community colleges that provide life skills and match job training with community needs should be supported and local governments should work with community-based organizations to provide technical and vocational skills training, including by using apprenticeship models.

Unpaid care work was recognized as vital but invisible and underrecognized. Contributors stated that unpaid careers need to be given official status and rights that include social protection and that recognizes the time spent delivering unpaid care, such as maternity leave, in the calculation of pensions.

The failure of governments to fully recognize trade union rights was highlighted in many submissions. It was stressed that SDG8 will not be achieved without full recognition of trade unions' right to bargain collectively.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 8?

The inputs recognized a number of gaps towards making progress on SDG 8, including a lack of effective national plans, disaggregated data, employment opportunities for young people, consultation with indigenous groups, start-up capital for entrepreneurs, and gender pay gaps, among others.

Inputs suggested that failures to recognize and implement international labor standards, such as freedom of association and access to social dialogue, make progress towards achieving SDG 8 difficult. Humans rights and labor rights are foundations for decent work, preconditions for a sustainable economic growth and need to be respected.

The vast gender inequalities that exist in labor markets were highlighted and called to be recognized and addressed further. Specific actions are needed to fight discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence. It was described how not enough women have a say over their own finances and access to a bank account. Additionally, it was noted that women should have more "say" over ownership and use of

natural resources like land and water. The missing link between ecotourism-based benefits and the communities that should be receiving those benefits was found to be a large gap in progressing towards SDG 8. It was also noted that many groups which suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as indigenous women, have added barriers to access the market. It was also noted that many groups which suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as indigenous women, have added barriers to access the market.

The government to community level awareness of the SDGs was reported as lacking. Inputs called for decentralization of development resourcing and financing to more effectively reach the local level as well as to promote local level dialogues to improve cooperation between all levels of governance.

Figure 2 - Word cloud for SDG 8 inputs

Inputs called attention onto the fact that people with disabilities experience multiple forms of discrimination and, as a result, experience more barriers to accessing productive and decent work than people without disabilities. People with disabilities are more likely to work for low wages, informally and precariously. Multiple intersecting factors restricting access to decent work and employment for people with disabilities were highlighted, including inadequate laws and policies; discriminatory social norms; a lack of access to education and training; and unequal access to resources, information and networks.

Gaps were pointed out in agriculture and food production that have an impact on progress towards SDG 8. Inputs called for investment in initiatives that reduce post-harvest food waste and spoilage (through improved storage, preservation, computer technology and improved access to credit and markets). It was also expressed that farmers need better access to profitable markets and valuable market information.

The engagement of local population in creating sustainable economic growth (submitted by Animal Issues Thematic Cluster of the NGO Major Group)

Liwonde National Park's ecosystem in Malawi features abundant biodiversity, including a large population of elephants. It is also surrounded by economically impoverished human settlements that rely on the park for resources, which has led to human-animal conflict and park degradation.

To reduce human-animal conflict while improving food security and nutrition, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) partnered with an economic development consulting firm and with the village leadership of Chikolongo village to find solutions. Over the last five years, the team built an

electric fence to prevent elephants from raiding village crops as well as a water pump for irrigation and drinking water.

Additionally, community farms, apiaries, and livestock programs have been instituted and run by local villagers. As a result, there has been a dramatic drop in poaching of elephants for food and a significant decrease in the number of villagers reporting they do not grow enough to eat. The number of people killed by crocodiles or hippos while retrieving water from the river dropped to zero.

IFAW was able to reduce human-wildlife conflict and park degradation while improving food security, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable growth because of intentionally engaging community members in every step from planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation. Many of the people now running the program are villagers, highlighting the importance of engaging local communities.

Various inputs identified gaps that exist in working conditions including poor sanitation, occupational hazards, and a lack of appropriate equipment or training. The barriers to accessing decent work include aspects such as lack of access to transportation, information, communication, built environment and education. It was highlighted that major factors contributing to exclusion include stigma and discrimination by employers. The absence of legal gender recognition was also recognized as a barrier to transgender and intersex persons having effective access to employment.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 8 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

There was a strong recognition that the SDGs are inherently interconnected and that SDG 8, on sustainable economic development, is key for achieving the other SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. For example, if all stakeholders implemented measures to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and improved resource efficiency, it would have a positive impact on climate (SDG 13). It was also mentioned by many that economic development and growth represent a key area in eradicating poverty, hunger, injustices, and social challenges.

Sustained economic growth and full and productive employment was described as an "essential lever" for achieving development. It was noted that this growth cannot be achieved without appropriate economic policies that consider other objectives such as sustainable industrialization, infrastructure development, education, management, and development of cities, among others.

It was acknowledged in many inputs that social dialogue can facilitate an increase in socio-economic progress and be an instrument for sustainable development in several areas including action towards climate change mitigation. It was suggested that implementing knowledge about the SDGs on all levels of education can increase progress towards all SDGs; but many inputs also highlighted the role of education in achieving individual and community economic sustainability. Implementing and leveraging educational programs that include labor specific training programs and lifelong learning policies which provide opportunities for all to participate in the labor market were seen as important for achieving the entire agenda.

Inputs noted the need for implementing and leveraging economic policies that are beneficial to women and linked to SDG 5 due to the fact that women often are the most at risk of missing out on economic and education opportunities. Women's empowerment in the economy drives sustainability and growth, which subsequently closes the gap of gender equality, as well as reduction in poverty. It was described how increasing women's entrepreneurship opportunities and women's representation in various sectors can

be effective drivers toward combating climate change and the production of environmentally clean products.

Various interlinkages in regard to people with disabilities were recognized. People with disabilities face huge barriers to economic empowerment without access to accessible transport, health care, inclusive education, social protection, and many other areas of the agenda. Leveraging the interlinkages of the agenda requires an integrated approach to policy with the inclusion of people with disabilities as a key pillar. In addition to the importance of ensuring persons with disabilities attain their right to work, the economic and business reasons for inclusion also benefit other areas of the Agenda.

Overall, it was noted that an inclusive approach that brings together workers, communities, employers and governments in social dialogue to establish and leverage concrete plans, policies and investments is essential to achieve a fast and fair transformation towards environmentally sustainable and socially responsible economic growth.
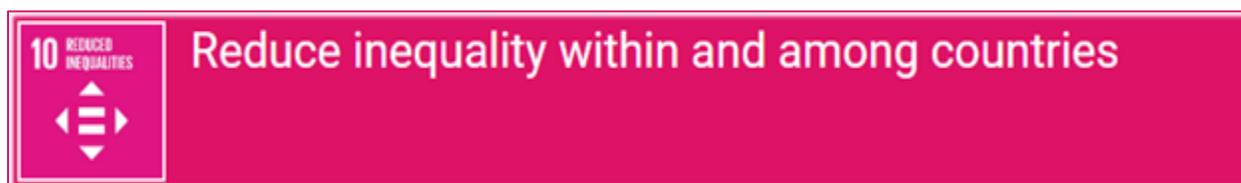
SDG 10. REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES - SUMMARY OF INPUTS

A total of 78 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to SDG 10. All submissions can be reviewed here.

NGOs represented 44.9% of the inputs, followed by Workers and Trade Unions as well as other stakeholders (16.7% each). Older Persons (1.3% of the inputs), Local Authorities, Business and Industry, Science and Technological Community and Volunteer Groups (3.8% each) also provided inputs.

Inputs recognized the importance of SDG 10 towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda, especially in relation to quality education, gender equality, health for all, eradication of extreme poverty, and affordable housing, and basic services for all. Moreover, inputs called attention to the importance of quality disaggregated data, education, commitment, and action from governments to reduce inequalities.

Inputs addressed several areas covered under SDG 10 and key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what are the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 10?

Many stakeholders agreed that collecting disaggregated multidimensional data that can measure the progress of policies targeting inequalities and the goal of "leaving no one behind" could help governments monitor the impact of policies, identify gaps and challenges, and enable the development of effective policy responses and targeted resources to ensure no one was left behind.

Governments were called upon to recognize the importance of and to protect, empower, listen to, give opportunities to and give voice to vulnerable groups – including youth, persons with disabilities, women, the poor, and LGBTQI people – and civil society organizations that represent them. They also pointed out that high-quality disaggregated data is essential to track development outcomes and tackle inequalities across income levels, geography, gender, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and caste among others.

Moreover, contributors have shown three major areas for action that have proven to reduce inequalities within countries: social spending (on accessible, affordable and high-quality public services and infrastructures, social protection, health, education, care and family leave), progressive taxation (fiscal policies and financial regulation), and labour rights (labour protection and wage policy).

For stakeholders, free, universally accessible, inclusive, and quality education is considered a first step towards inequality reduction. Implementing universal social protection policies through both contributory and non-contributory schemes was also pointed out as another critical step toward reducing health inequalities and poverty; and toward preventing, mitigating, and combating social exclusion, inequality and vulnerability. Finally, inputs suggested the adoption and enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation to ensure the principle of equality and non-discrimination. Improving migrants and refugees' status through policies to help them integrate and access legal support in the face of discrimination is also an important measure to reduce inequalities.

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people: The Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (submitted by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD))

The Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project contributes to improved migration governance at the city level. It is implemented by a consortium led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in partnership with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat).

The project has thus far involved the cities of Amman, Beirut, Casablanca, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Oujda, Rabat, Tangiers, Sfax, Sousse, Turin, Tunis and Vienna in a process of mutual learning and cooperation.

MC2CM has delved into the local context of each city by producing City Migration Profiles and Priority Papers validated by the city authority and stakeholders. This work has involved international partners, local authorities and the local fabric in each city (comprised of public and private institutions as well as civil society). Dialogue at the national level has been sought and encouraged in the spirit of achieving multi-level governance.

The project has also applied a regional approach to issues of interest through thematic events on the topics of relevance to local authorities, including: social cohesion, intercultural and interreligious dialogue; employment and entrepreneurship; human rights and access to basic services; refugees hosting; urban planning and housing; education; and inter-institutional coordination.

Many inputs stated that protecting producers and workers' rights and reducing the income gap through wages is an important lever to reduce inequalities. The implementation of a "living wage" based on the cost of living, regularly reviewed and adjusted, instead of a minimum wage would help workers to live a decent life and escape and avoid falling back into poverty.

According to stakeholder inputs, fair, equitable, and progressive taxation policies can provide a better distribution of national income to target poorer social segments and geographical areas as it allows the government to redistribute national income.

Finally, it was stated that inequalities between developed and developing countries can be tackled through more cooperation; reducing corruption; giving more decision-making power to developing

countries, supporting their independence and increasing access to technology through technology transfer and the sharing and scaling up of local technologies.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 10?

Protection of people in detention (submitted by FIACAT)

Since 2014, in France, FIACAT has been implementing a project on Abusive Pre-trial Detention (APD). The APD project contributes to the implementation of SDG 10 by ensuring that the rules surrounding abusive pre-trial detention are strictly applied and respected for all without distinction of their financial means. In order to do so, FIACAT and its grass root members work in close collaboration with State representatives, prison staff and judicial staff as well as with other civil society representatives.

Challenges to achieving SDG 10 were highlighted such as an inadequate allocation of resources, the non or weak implementation of national social policies, poor public management and weakness in coordination, corruption, lack of prioritization of poorer social and geographical segments in national budgets, tax avoidance, harsh fiscal austerity measures, cutbacks to social spending, and the lack of continuity in public policies during government transitions. Contributors also stressed other factors that slow the progress towards SDG 10 such as the unequal distribution of wealth inside countries and a poor working class that results from precarious employment, low wages, and no job security. Further, many forms of discrimination are still in place, based on gender, social class, ethnicity, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, cast, disability, migratory status, age and others.

Figure 3 - Word cloud for inputs on SDG 10

An imbalance of power between governments and private sector entities was highlighted, especially in Least Developed States with large natural resource reserves. However, this is not the only imbalance pointed out as the contributors also expressed their concerns about the lack of cooperation between governments, multilateral and donor agencies, and civil society; the decrease of official development assistance and financial flows directed to the Least Developed Countries; and the failure to transfer technology in any meaningful way to developing countries.

Finally, it was raised that there is a general lack of consciousness of the interdependency of all global citizens, as well as a lack of knowledge, information, and opportunities to learn more about the SDGs. According to the inputs, tools and processes to develop innovative ways for problem solving are lacking and we have weak data on poverty trends and little

disaggregated data by religion, ethnicity, caste, language and other relevant characteristics in national contexts to help identify disparities and inequalities.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 10 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

According to the contributors, SDG 10 is linked to every other SDG of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 16, and 17.

Informing and implementing knowledge about the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in education at all levels was suggested. This would empower citizens to act and shape communities to achieve the SDGs as well as overcome social exclusion and inequality ensuring no one is left behind.

Implementing SDG 5 could help reduce inequalities through the empowerment and better representation of women in decision-making processes and leadership positions as well as through the promotion of diverse work and family life reconciliation policies, equal sharing of care responsibilities and paid paternity and shared leave.

Empowering women (submitted by The Brooke)

In India, the NGO "The Brooke" created women's groups who come together to pool finances in order to get animal health care for their working livestock (mainly donkeys, horses and mules). The creation of these groups has supported women in negotiating better rates with animal health professionals for veterinary treatment and better rates to buy food for the animals they depend on. The success of these groups means that they have diversified into not only pooling finances for their animals' treatment but also for their children's education and have had facilitated access to political representatives.

Reducing inequalities and achieving SDG 10 would enhance progress on health for all; eradicate extreme poverty; and provide adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services for all. The role of the governments was recognized of great influence to reduce inequalities as contributors stated that ensuring effective and inclusive implementation of public services as well as quality employment, tackling poverty and discriminations, establishing youth-friendly welfare systems, planning and managing migration policies, prioritizing the public financing of universal service provision, and giving access to basic services for all will help reducing inequalities. Moreover, stakeholders asked governments to cooperate more through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector cooperation and partnerships in reviewing domestic policy frameworks and processes to facilitate the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Civil society as well as minorities and marginalized populations views and knowledge need also to be considered in decision-making processes to tackle sources of exclusion and marginalization.

At the global level, an equal negotiations table was stated as vital to enabling developing countries to influence decisions and agreements that are favorable to their status as well as to hold developed countries accountable for their efforts towards the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, harmonizing international policy and ensuring a fair treatment of actors in international trade is important to reduce inequalities.

Finally, stakeholders highlighted the crucial need of information for all and data, especially disaggregated data, collected at regular intervals that represent all types of stakeholders.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

SDG 13. TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS – SUMMARY OF INPUTS

A total of 98 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to SDG 1313. All submissions can be reviewed [here](#).

Inputs recognized the importance of SDG 13 for the all 2030 Agenda as climate change is impacted and has an impact on every area of our societies, and on every individual. The urgency to act on climate change was highlighted, as well as the need for governmental action, education of all stakeholders, collaboration between all stakeholders, and local and individual action.

Inputs addressed several aspects of SDG 13 and key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what are the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 13?

The urgency of addressing climate change was depicted by numerous contributors that highlighted different ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 13 such as local action, attention to vulnerable communities, funding for climate change, national policies, collaboration between the different stakeholders, education, and a just transition.

Most of the contributors stated the importance of governmental action with a real commitment and action from politicians, an institutionalization of SDG 13 and the need for policies to consider climate change. Several initiatives were flagged such as the production of a Climate Mitigation Plan; a long-term target for net zero carbon emissions; encouraging the implementation of industrial ecology; creating policies on renewable energies; clean transportation; science-based and traditional-based agriculture; water access; forests protection; stopping the use of coal and fossil fuel; improving disaster preparedness and management; and strengthening the resilience of territories and populations through improving the capacities of all stakeholders. Other initiatives such as banning the use of single use plastics were also mentioned.

Raising funds for climate change was another tool depicted to promote and finance environmentally-friendly projects such as in the clean energies industry or for the preservation of nature. A "Just Transition" to an alternative economic model such as circular, green, low-carbon economy has also been raised by many stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation; to stop the use of fossil fuels; and to protect workers, jobs, social and humans' rights.

Figure 4 - Word cloud for inputs on SDG 13

Other aspects pointed out include helping the youth understand the challenges of climate change and have a voice; empowering people to take climate action and, especially, making everyone understand that they can also fight against climate change with everyday actions.

Community-led initiatives should be supported and promoted to empower communities, helping to reduce the effects of climate change. Vulnerable Communities; especially women, indigenous people, youth, and persons with disabilities, should be promoted, supported, listened to and included in the policy-making process as these can help create a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and effective collaboration to move forward.

The need for communities to diversity their economic activities was also flagged and investing on the local level could help in strengthening resilience to climate change.

Collaboration between all stakeholders – i.e. governments, developed countries, developing countries, private sector actors, vulnerable and local communities, social entities, networks and others – was one of the most common elements in the contributors to progress towards SDG 13. International treaties like the Paris Agreement are an example of this collaboration and it was stated that the commitments made under such treaties should be respected.

World Water Council

The #ClimateIsWater initiative was launched in late 2015, based on the premise that the obvious links between water and climate change have for a long time been ignored in international climate summits and to federate members of the water community from around the globe to speak with one voice for water. The objective was to reach out to the climate community for better consideration of water issues through the support of more than 70 organizations.

In collaboration with other partners, the World Water Council has also convened International Conferences on Water and Climate (ICWC).

In addition, the Council has a long-lasting experience in catalyzing collective action during and in between each World Water Forum – the world's largest gathering on water. Co-organized every three years in collaboration with a host country, the Forum is a unique platform for the water community and key decision makers to work together to overcome global water challenges. The Forum brings together participants at all levels and from all spheres, as well as a whole variety of themes including climate change. The 9th World Water Forum will take place in Dakar, Senegal, in 2021.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 13?

Several inputs noted that, due to a limited appreciation of how SDG 13 supports national and regional development, there is a lack of awareness and political will; incentives; concrete actions by the government; and commitment by the private sector, especially large companies. Lack of action by the government impacts other actors as well, for example local populations who are waiting for the government to act. Therefore, stakeholders identified a gap in national plans to reach the SDGs and promote investment policies and programs, as well as an urgency gap in addressing areas vulnerable to climate change. One major issue was that efficient climate change policies need to be made and implemented on the long run while governments are changing and such transitions can threaten longer term, consistent policies. Moreover, it was pointed out that efforts for preparedness on local disaster risk reduction strategies needs to be accentuated in line with the national ones. Stakeholders called for more inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, women, marginalized people, and youth on policy making related to climate change.

According to stakeholders, the focus should not only be on governments actions but also on more scalable local action. It was suggested that local communities should be given more power and capacity building to customise actions based on the needs, available resources, and demographics of the local population.

Reviving a river: the Vaho Vishwamitri Abhiyan case in India, Community Science Centre, Vadodara

In India, the Vaho Vishwamitri Abhiyan is an effective model of holistic development to revive the River Vishwamitri by a stakeholder's engagement mechanism that has resulted in reviving the River and conserving its biodiversity and thereby, the ecosystem. Such engagement can help address climate change at the community level, while also providing the basis for expanding action to other climate-related areas. The Campaign implemented by the Vadodara-based Community Science Centre (Gujarat, India) was to revive the 134 km long River, which is flowing from the foothills of Pavagadh Hills in central Gujarat towards the city and meets the Gulf of Khambat. Multi-stakeholder groups through various "Meets, Awareness Generation and Advocacy Programs" were able to convince Local Authorities to scrap the cemented River front on the River banks and implement instead a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation Plan. The Holistic development demonstration model for River Revival has been submitted to the National Conservation Action Plan, Government of India.

Many inputs stated that the potential of cooperation is not used at its maximum as the full spectrum of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental) is not always considered in climate talks or policy making. The lack of coordination between the different stakeholders and generations of actors was mentioned. At the international level, it was noted that cooperation is fragile with nations not respecting their engagements, and the need for more collaboration between developed and developing countries. Finally, a general lack of funding and use of effective and appropriate financing tools, especially in the Least Developed Countries and vulnerable communities, was emphasized. One suggestion was that the

funding should also help build stakeholder capacities, improve knowledge, and evaluating the results of policies.

> **Marine, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems' provision of critical adaptation and ecosystem services for communities and economies (submitted by Stockholm International Water Institute)**
>
> The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects, promote best practices, and take action for improved integrated management. Sustainable management of water in the landscape can contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, as it can enhance carbon stocks and sinks, as well as support adaptation of forest management and agriculture. The Ethiopia Water and Landscape Governance program hosted by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is developing a water governance program in selected river basins. One of the components of the program is landscape restoration through stakeholder dialogues involving farmers, foresters, pastoralist and local communities. This bottom-up approach to decision-making under climate change engages local stakeholders from the outset to identify risks and solutions. It has been piloted in over a dozen countries and is currently being used by cities as diverse as Lusaka, Zambia and San Francisco, California to increase the resilience of local populations, ecosystems and infrastructure.

A lack of education about climate change at all levels – from kindergarten to higher education was described as a bottleneck for action. The media was proposed as a potential tool to expand awareness on SDG 13 implementation.

Finally, most contributors felt that there was a lack of urgency in moving towards a more sustainable and environmental-friendly society. Adaptation plans adopted by countries were described as often limited by insufficient technical capacity and lack of reliable information on future climate impacts.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 13 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

Stakeholders agreed that SDG 13 is impacted by and has an impact on every other SDG of the 2030 Agenda. Several flagged the connection between SDGs 8 and 13 and the impact on sustainable societies, just transitions, environmental justice and ecological development.

It was expressed that national policies can play a major role in leveraging the interlinkages between SDG 13 and the whole 2030 Agenda, as lack of effective climate action can negatively impact all SDGs. Therefore, national development planners should establish cross-sectoral coordination to prevent these negative impacts and mainstream climate change policies. Planning for fast response and management of extreme weather events was considered as essential to preserve economies and territories. Constant data

monitoring tools should also be used to learn about the strengths and shortfalls of policies in order to reinforce or modify them.

Inputs noted that a promotion of local and vulnerable communities' practices could help in widening action on climate change. Therefore, bottom-up approaches for policy and methodology development, with full engagement of communities was preferred.

Including local populations for a bottom-up approach: farmers and "The Climakers" action (submitted by World Farmers' Organisation – WFO)

Although the agricultural sector is often identified as a cause of climate change, farmers hold an important part of the solution to address the challenges of combating climate change and its impacts. That is why farmers want that political decisions take into consideration their needs and expectations.

Considering the above, the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) has launched "The Climakers" initiative according to which all actors in the food value chain work, together with farmers, work to advance the global political dialogue on agriculture and climate change, promoting farmers' contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement.

"The Climakers" initiative is a multi-stakeholder alliance that regroups all the interested stakeholders surrounding agriculture, be it farmers, researchers, international organizations, private sector and public sector actors. Together with other partners, WFO aims at promoting a reverse paradigm in the global agenda on climate change, based on a bottom-up approach, where farmers have a key role to play in the global policy process on climate change.

As climate change is contributing to the degradation of our environment and availability of natural resources, educating all generations on climate change as well as on the interlinkages with other SDGs was depicted as an important step to broaden the scope of SDG 13 action. In fact, engaging all stakeholders – through social dialogue; integrated, multi-disciplinary, and inclusive approaches; coalition building; cross-sectoral initiatives and a focus on the synergies between the different international frameworks and ongoing processes like the Paris Agreement or the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction – were considered essential to stakeholders in the process of mainstreaming climate change under the 2030 Agenda.

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

A total of 92 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to SDG 16. All submissions can be reviewed here.

NGOs submitted 44.6% of the inputs, followed by women and children and youth (16.3% each). Local Authorities, Business and Industry, Older Persons, and Private Philanthropic Organizations represented 1.1% of the inputs each.

Inputs recognized and reflected the broadness, multi-faceted and multi-layered nature of SDG 16, which, at the same time, is essential to progress on the 2030 Agenda. Inputs to SDG 16 highlighted the interlinkages with all other SDGs and that, to accelerate progress, there was a need to scale the ambition of government's commitments at all levels, target the most vulnerable, focusing on leaving no one behind, encourage learning and exchange of good practices and develop the case for investment on the prevention of violence, access to justice, and combatting inequality and exclusion.

Inputs addressed several aspects covered on SDG 16 and key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 16?

Inputs called the attention to the need of scaling up solutions and good practices, integrating them into government strategies, plans and programs as well as strengthening capacities of public agents on all aspects related to SDG 16 implementation.

Consulting with the most vulnerable on the elaboration of public policies focusing on reducing violence, strengthening and expanding safe channels to denounce violence as well as increasing investments in violence prevention and data disaggregation were also highlighted.

Stakeholders called upon allocating adequate funding towards child protection systems and infrastructure, including on data on violence against children. Establishing processes that ensure meaningful and active participation of children in decision making and changing harmful social norms and practices were listed as critical. Inputs also called for addressing the impacts and risks of violence and abuse faced by children who live in institutions, especially children with disabilities and refugees by carefully transitioning care systems towards community and family-based care alternatives.

Collaboration to end violence against children (submitted by Plan International)

The CSO Forum to End Violence Against Children is the independent voice to End Violence against Children. A coalition of 15 civil society organizations working at national, regional and global levels to end all forms of violence against children. This Forum is an advocacy body, utilizing connections in over 20 countries to share information, collaborate, and share knowledge and evidence.

Setting up good administration of justice and trustworthy justice institutions with effective access to justice and remedies was considered essential to promote the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all.

Additionally, stakeholders called for the implementation of policies and regulations that hinders the movement of illicit funds. Stakeholders highlighted the need to strengthening capacities and institutions to investigate, prosecute and prevent financial fraud and corruption. Enhancing social participation mechanisms were mentioned as essential to support the fight against corruption and promote transparency.

Stakeholders called upon strengthening capacities and institutions on national level. The need to develop mechanisms to allow farmers to have deeper access to justice and to develop trust in their institutions was mentioned as well as the call for implementing laws and policies that ensure that information needed to defend rights is accessible and that free and affordable legal aid is provided to all those in need.

A strong call from stakeholders was for a multi-sectoral approach to ensuring peace, justice and strong institutions, closely aligned with other development priorities such as health, education and gender equality. Recommended approaches included setting up national multi-stakeholder dialogues on SDG 16 and on localizing SDG 16 to sub-national level and promoting multi-stakeholder engagement in the planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of SDG 16 related policies.

The Task Force on Justice to reach SDG 16 targets (submitted by NYU-CIC Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies)

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies has brought together member states, international organizations, global partnerships, and other partners working to accelerate the delivery of SDG16+. The Task Force on Justice is an initiative of the Pathfinders. The Taskforce is chaired by ministers from Argentina, the Netherlands, and Sierra Leone and by the Elders, and brings together a distinguished group of justice leaders and experts to help turn the ambition of the SDG targets for justice into reality. It is supported by 25 global and regional justice partners.

Additionally, stakeholders called for the institutionalization of social dialogue and participation, including with regards to labor rights as well as for concrete actions to empower children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and others towards transformational leadership and solidarity.

The role of journalists and trade unions were considered important for increasing transparency, reducing corruption and upholding freedom of expression as well as the need to set up well-supported networks of libraries, to facilitate access to information in a meaningful way.

The need to ensure locally led and owned approaches to building and sustaining peace, linking to supporting strong democratic societies based on good governance, to leverage social services for peacebuilding and to invest in legal empowerment efforts and secure the safety of grassroots justice defenders was mentioned. Another necessity was to implement, at national and regional level, infrastructures for peace that are long-term structural measures helping to prevent and manage conflicts, facilitate and ensure peace agreements, reconcile the tensions that may arise, educate for peace and promote reconciliation and reparative justice.

Stakeholders have also flagged the need to change harmful social norms and practices through state legislation, investing in systems, and public campaigns.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 16?

Stakeholders highlighted the lack of sustainable financing as one of the biggest issues facing the legal empowerment of communities.

Another strong demand from the e-consultation was for capacity-building and citizenship empowerment initiatives that encourage vulnerable groups to have their demands taken into account in political

decision-making. Inputs mentioned the lack of standards and legislation to encourage greater public participation in decision-making processes and the weak empowerment of civil society, including the recognition that space for civil society is shrinking in many countries. Failure to recognize or fulfill human and labor rights, freedom of association and collective bargaining and social dialogue are creating gaps in the progress towards peaceful, democratic and inclusive societies.

> **Local peacemakers (submitted by Finn Church Aid, the Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)**
>
> The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers was initiated in 2013 as a response to the growing awareness that religious and traditional peacemakers are vital, but underutilized, actors in peace processes. The Network currently involves approximately 50 actors working in this field, including states and state-based organizations, regional bodies, academic institutions, and international and national non-governmental organizations.

Corruption was recognized as another major challenge, hindering equitable access to public services and economic development. Another concern referred to the lack of political will to fully implement SDG 16 and non-observance of the rule of law, which led to ineffective institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks.

Gaps in data and disaggregation, especially in a manner to sustain international comparison, as well as the lack of evidence on interventions that work and little funding for long-term programming were referred as additional challenges. Stakeholders called upon incorporating citizen generated data in monitoring mechanisms of government provision.

Many stakeholders reflected on the lack of justice to address historical injustices against indigenous peoples, the Dalit community, human rights defenders, children, women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV and AIDS, and other vulnerable groups. Politically marginalized groups were considered to be under-represented and excluded from participation and decision-making processes.

Another challenge referred to the general lack of knowledge on the SDGs and on SDG 16 specifically and the need for consolidated efforts towards awareness raising and information, including on the interconnectedness between SDG 16 and the whole 2030 Agenda. In this regard, inputs mentioned that many areas still lack effective libraries that can provide effective and equitable access to information.

The lack of decentralized responses, including investment in local level governments, was mentioned as another gap towards implementation of this SDG. Some reminded the under-development level of implementation strategies for many of the SDG 16 targets.

Discriminatory gender norms and negative social norms that condone violence, including child marriage and violence against children and women, were recognized as main challenges for SDG 16 implementation. In this regard, the gender gap in peacebuilding and conflict preventions efforts were considered to be hindering progress towards SDG 16 implementation.

Several inputs mentioned the weak implementation of existing laws to end violence against children and the significant gap between policy and practice, including limited budget allocations. Poor investment on prevention of violence against children, weak systems for child protection and insufficient recovery and support services for children victims of violence were also flagged.

> **Partnership to end violence (submitted by Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children)**
>
> The END VIOLENCE Global Partnership is a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together governments, UN and international organizations, academia and civil society organizations to accelerate progress to end violence against children. END VIOLENCE has facilitated increased commitments from 23 governments as 'Pathfinding countries' to lead the way in ending violence against children. END VIOLENCE also helped to galvanize multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level (including, for example, the CSO alliance Aliansi PKTA in Indonesia and the CSO Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Philippines) while a dedicated CSO Forum coordinates the democratic and representative involvement of a large group of NGOs in the work of the Global Partnership and supports the participation of children.

Stakeholders referred to the lack of alternatives to imprisonment, especially for youth and the lack of investment in Public Defenders to support access to justice.

National legislation in some countries were consider not to ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms.

Stakeholders also remembered the under representation and decision-making power of developing countries in global financial institutions as another challenge for SDG implementation.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 16 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

SDG 16 has been recognized as an enabler and accelerator of the entire 2030 Agenda. Stakeholders called upon facilitating the generation and outreach of key information and promoting public participation and co-responsibility on decision making processes as a way to leverage interlinkages. Good governance and transparency, empowering people to participate at decision making as well as engaging with elected representatives, including parliamentarians would strengthen interlinkages.

> **Involving civil society for SDG 16 (submitted by TAP Network)**
>
> TAP serves as a platform to mobilize civil society around SDG 16, including at the global level around key processes, but also at the national level. TAP engages some of the foremost experts on the issues around Goal 16 and benefit from the invaluable expertise, experiences and unique perspectives of its members, all of whom come together to collaborate under the TAP umbrella. This work is underpinned by recognition that reach and influence is maximized when many stakeholders speak with a unified voice.

Inputs flagged the connection between access to justice and education and equality especially for the marginalized and socially excluded groups. In this regard, the importance of access to information was emphasized.

Stakeholders also reminded that implementing target 16.4 (on illicit flows) would raise resources for global development and the implementation of all SDGs. Additionally, the vital role of localization of the 2030 Agenda, expressed in local, community and public justice-related services was mentioned.

Strengthening and institutionalizing social dialogue would generate a transversal axis and exploring synergies for the elaboration of public policies towards SDG implementation.

The connection between peace and security and sustainable institutions is key to securing livelihoods and stable and functioning institutions are key to delivering essential services, especially to the most in need.

Stakeholders called the attention to the fact that the lack of access and inclusion often increases the risks faced by people with disabilities to conflict. Much of the infrastructure needed to underpin achievement of the SDGs in the poorest countries is still to be built.

The need for more disaggregated data for informed decision making as well as supporting equal access to information, participation and dialogue were listed as pathways for more just and resilient societies.

Figure 5 - Word cloud for inputs on SDG 16

Additionally, encouraging adoption of open and transparent processes that substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms will increase the funds available for investment and increase trust in decision makers.

Ensuring that justice institutions such as police, courts, and administrative bodies are well-supported, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient is key for SDG 16 implementation as well as empowering communities with the means and capacity to exercise their rights. The bottom-up work of legal empowerment—often led by civil society grassroots justice defenders—was considered crucial to ensuring that justice systems function fairly and effectively.

The role of multisectoral partnerships and alliances between different actors to implement a clear and strong response to achieve the SDG 16 targets was considered vital and required for SDG implementation.

SDG 17. STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – SUMMARY OF INPUTS

A total of 67 inputs were received on the e-consultation related to SDG 17. All submissions can be reviewed here.

NGOs provided 47.8% of the inputs, followed by Other stakeholders (16.4%), Workers and Trade Unions (14.9%), and Women and Education and Academic Entities (11.9% each). Older Persons (1.5% of the inputs), Private Philanthropic Organizations and Science and Technological Community contributed 3% each.

Inputs recognized the vitality of SDG 17 for the implementation of the whole 2030 Agenda as partnerships are the first step for the implementation of every other SDG. They highlighted the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships, international cooperation, reforms of the financial and tax systems, quality data, sharing knowledge, accountability and transparency of partnerships.

Inputs addressed several aspects covered on SDG 17 and key messages are highlighted below.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, what the most effective ways to accelerate progress towards SDG 17?

According to most contributors, SDG 17 needs to involve multi-level, multi-stakeholders – such as NGOs, governments, private sector, and academia – as well as multi-sectoral – finance, trade, technology, capacity building, and facing systemic challenges – initiatives to develop global, regional, national, sub-national, and community-based partnerships to plan, implement, and monitor the SDGs. For this, stakeholders called for a detailed mapping of the key players and priorities, especially at the local level, to identify the inter-linkages and opportunities for coordinated action as well as social dialogues at all levels. All stakeholders should be involved in decision-making processes related to the 2030 Agenda. In fact, stakeholders depicted the importance of the corporate sector, especially in private-public partnerships; and civil society organizations, as citizen initiatives are efficient ways to achieve progress. However, the need to regulate the power imbalance between the different stakeholders in partnerships was emphasized.

> **Scalable partnerships for the SDGs (submitted by American Pakistan Foundation)**
>
> American Pakistan Foundation partners with established NGOs on the ground to highlight best practices and modalities of successful and impactful outcomes at the regional and local level to ensure scalability; and by connecting sustainable projects in partnerships. Through the Fellows Program, American Pakistan Foundation served the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) which connects over two million households, 150,000 community organizations, and 500 local support organizations across Pakistan, with professionals who are committed to creating positive socioeconomic change in Pakistan.

It was proposed for international cooperation to be enhanced. South-South and triangular cooperation were flagged by stakeholders as approaches to give more independence and means to developing countries in partnerships, negotiations, and development initiatives and discussions. Some given examples of areas that the international community should work together on were: tax justice, decent work conditions, core labor standards, easier market access for Least Developed Countries, funding of global conservation joint projects, and fair distribution of wealth and resources.

Some stakeholders called for an intergovernmental tax body for international tax cooperation to fight tax evasion and avoidance, stop illicit financial flows, and develop sustainable development finance through financial transaction and carbon taxes. Additionally, there was a call for international public assistance in

grant form targeted to the poorest countries through both Official Development Assistance and climate finance.

Contributors also stated the importance of promoting the international action of local governments to develop innovative solutions to global problems, knowledge exchange; and to empower the territories and their populations. On another level, the development of regional alliances was pointed out as a way to empower the position of regions in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the SDGs.

> **Giving a voice to local governments in international discussions (submitted by Coordinación General de Asuntos Internacionales del Gobierno de la Ciudad de México)**
>
> In 2016, the Euro Latin American Cooperation Alliance between Cities (AL-LAs), gathered more than a thousand local authorities, in a process called "A seat at the global table" aimed to recognize the local governments as decision makers in the global agenda. "A seat at the global table" has contributed through strategic alliances, like the Global Task Force of UCLG and UN Habitat, to position local governments in the discussions of the global agenda and to recognize their role in the implementation of the SDGs.

At the national level, stakeholders pointed out the need for reforms and adequate regulations of the tax system, by a fiscal reform with progressive taxation, strengthening tax administration, and broadening the tax base; the health, education, labor, and social systems; transparency and conflict of interest; discriminations; mechanisms for monitoring; and measures for public finance management with a dissemination of finances through smaller loans and grants to local projects. Countries should also fight against tax havens, minimization, avoidance and evasion on their territories. Moreover, national frameworks for implementation and achievement of the SDGs, more effective partnerships, and a review process were suggested as primordial.

Finally, inclusive disaggregated data remains an important way to accelerate progress towards SDG 17 to create evidence-based policies.

Based on the evidence, and keeping the regional/local context in mind, where are the biggest shortfalls/gaps towards making progress towards SDG 17?

Stakeholders considered that SDG 17 has been given less attention when compared to other SDGs. Therefore, inputs stated a lack of true partnership models at national level, as well as a failure to promote and institutionalize community-based and multi-actor partnerships that plan, implement, and monitor the SDGs.

Many inputs recognized gaps of understanding, framework, and ways of functioning between governments, NGOs, and private sector. Stakeholders explained the lack of collaboration within different government levels and institutions, which hinders the effectiveness of partnerships as well as the inclusion of local voices and actions. Other inputs pointed out to the lack of ownership in the 2030 Agenda setting, a disconnect between decision makers and grassroots organizers, and the lack of funding.

Promoting multi-levels partnerships (submitted by The Millennials Movement)

The 2030 Agenda Citizens Ambassadors Program is an initiative that showcases the importance of articulations in local, national and international level to promote youth engagement and mobilizations towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The initiative aims to train youth lead organizations and promote their engagement in the implementation of concrete actions at the local level that contributes with the 2030 Agenda approaches. Actions delivered at the local level are linked with regional and global processes that gives youth lead organizations the opportunity to see their contributions reflected on a global scenario. The participant youth lead organizations during the program have also engaged at the local level with their municipalities and other actors in order to mobilize resources to mainstream the 2030 Agenda and take concrete actions.

Stakeholders stated that governments seem to lack will in implementing SDG 17 due to the long period demanded for ratifying or implementing global partnership agreements and gaps in policy coherence plans for sustainable development at national and regional levels. The low level of federal support and incentives for local governments to establish international alliances and cooperation was mentioned. Stakeholders flagged the lack of political will to tackle tax avoidance and tax evasion and lack of transparency and accountability. Lack of funding for SDG implementation, especially Official Development Assistance was also mentioned.

Inputs flagged an absence of a clearly defined, independent, and robust mechanisms to make governments accountable for their commitments to implement the SDGs. Existing mechanisms were described as weak to hold countries accountable and the lack of capacity to collect and analyze data to monitor the SDG implementation was identified as a concern.

Making governments accountable for their commitments (submitted by Coalition 2030)

Coalition 2030 is an alliance of over 60 civil society organisations working together to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both at home and abroad. The coalition is made up of both international and domestic NGOs along with youth organisations, environmental groups, academics, and trade unions. Its member organisations work in a broad variety or areas – from humanitarian relief to labour rights and environmental sustainability – in Ireland and in over 50 countries around the world. Coalition2030 engages across all SDGs and the 2030 Agenda from monitoring, evaluation, learning, research, education, public engagement, advocacy and communications activities and events.

The lack of cooperation between statistical offices and organizations to exchange data was highlighted as an important challenge. Another issue related to shortfalls in terms of access to technologies, and therefore to information.

How can one best leverage the interlinkages between SDG 17 and the rest of the 2030 Agenda?

Figure 6 - Word cloud of inputs on SDG 17

SDG 17 was considered as the basis for implementation of all the other SDGs. Therefore, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships at local, national, and international levels; international development cooperation; stakeholder consultations; domestic resource allocation; and collecting disaggregated data were underlined as critical elements in leaving no one behind.

The importance of transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially the ones including civil society, the most vulnerable and discriminated people was flagged in order to adapt SDG actions to the local level. Inclusive and participatory processes were also stressed such as stakeholder consultations for government as well as the international action of local governments that empower their territory and populations.

Moreover, inputs stated that promoting global citizenship around the SDGs by educating the population, raising awareness on the SDGs and advising stakeholders on SDG implementation was needed to leverage the interlinkages between SDG 17 and the 2030 Agenda. On the government side, stakeholders called upon building political will, increasing the demand for transparent and accountable governance at all levels and of all actors, implementing national action plans for the SDGs, and recognizing and enhancing the role of local governments for sustainable development and in global discussions.

Raising awareness around the SDGs (submitted by Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology)

Chalmers University of Technology's work suggests that universities can play important roles in generating debate and action around the SDGs in partnership with local authorities and other stakeholders. In Buenos Aires, the researchers, city officials, and civil society team has been jointly working on methodological definitions, actors' mapping and the construction of city-level indicators. The first part of the joint work prioritized the adaptation to the city level of SDG 11 indicators, as well as those indicators linked to housing deficit, access to basic services and re-urbanization plans for slums. In Shimla, the Municipal Corporation had started working with the SDGs in 2017 and in November 2018, the elected members of the Corporation unanimously signed a resolution committing to the SDGs, particularly the targets in the urban goal (SDG 11). In Kisumu, meetings between the research team and the Kenyan national agencies in charge of SDGs implementation led to Kisumu being selected as a pilot study on how cities in the country are localizing the SDGs.

On financial matters, it was flagged that SDG 17 implementation would enable an increase in investment opportunities which would improve living, education, and stability. Stakeholders called for an agreement

on the definition of "illicit financial flows" that could help on tracking progress towards targets 16.4, 16.5, and 17.1. Additionally, stakeholder called upon countries to jointly fight tax avoidance, tax havens, and tax evasion to have more available funds, especially for international cooperation; and that countries should honor their commitments, especially the one to provide 0.7% of their gross domestic product to official development assistance.

Finally, stakeholders highlighted the importance of data and information through universal internet access and information and communication technologies to create links between the different stakeholders, including the most marginalized and governments.

<p style="text-align:center">***</p>