

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR HLPF Ministerial Declaration 2024

International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

22 April 2024

Key messages

Section II

- Reaffirm that the three pillars of the United Nations – development, peace and security and human rights – are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.
- Promote whole-of-government approaches and people-centered approaches.

SDG 13

- Recognize the importance of the rule of law and access to justice as catalysts for accelerated climate action.

SDG 16

- Strengthen effective people-centred justice systems to reduce the number of people with unresolved justice needs by half by 2030.
- Prioritize justice in national budgets and ODA and invest in the rule of law and access to justice to catalyse progress across the SDGs.
- Establish beneficial ownership registries.
- Eliminate discriminatory laws, regulations, policies and practices.

Introduction

IDLO welcomes the content of the elements paper, which provides a sound basis in which to develop a zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration (“Declaration”). IDLO notes in particular the reference to SDG16 as a foundational element for the 2030 Agenda and, in this regard, offers the following suggestions that flesh out this principle further. IDLO is mindful that the outcomes of the annual SDG16 Conference on 6 May, co-organized with the Mission of Italy and UN DESA, will also provide informative content for the Declaration, the outcome of which will be officially communicated. IDLO would be able to provide initial reflections of those outcomes at the informal consultations scheduled for 7 and 8 May.

Priority Actions (Chapter II of Elements Paper)

IDLO notes the reference to the reaffirmation “that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.” This language could be strengthened with a **reaffirmation that the three pillars of the United Nations – development, peace and security and human rights – are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.**

IDLO welcomes reference in the elements paper to “the interlinkages between the SDGs” and recommends that this be strengthened in the zero draft with a view to understanding **how those interlinkages can support or hinder implementation, and with a view to identifying and scaling policies that amplify results across the 2030 Agenda.** This should be done by building on innovative, data driven and evidence-based solutions.

IDLO also welcomes the reference to “a whole-of society approach,” and suggests that the zero-draft fleshes this out further to include **whole-of-society and whole-of-**

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government approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Approaches that **foster policy coherence across government, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborations, among national, subnational and local governments, communities, civil society and the private sector.** Such language might equally be suited under SDG17, as a goal under review.

Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of language that **recognizes the importance of people-centred approaches throughout the 2030 Agenda** and stress that all policies, plans, strategies, systems and processes designed to implement the SDGs should be responsive to and embrace inclusive, participatory approaches to identify people's needs, including in the strengthening of institutions and mechanisms.

Goals under in-depth review

Goal 13

With due regard to the interlinkages among the SDGs, IDLO recommends that the zero draft recognize **that rule of law and access to justice (which are critical elements of SDG16) can be a catalysts for accelerated climate action** by empowering people and communities, strengthening legal frameworks in support of climate action, investing in formal and informal justice systems to resolve climate-related disputes, harnessing the rule of law in support of intergenerational equity and promoting effective mechanisms to address the international dimensions of climate change, including through loss and damage funds – all of which can be captured by the concept of climate justice.

Working at the intersection of SDGs 5, 13, and 16, the zero draft should **promote a feminist approach to addressing climate change and the transition to sustainable energy** to achieve, *inter alia*, climate justice and gender equality, and help catalyse progress towards greener, sustainable economies.

Goal 16

IDLO welcomes the references to critical elements of SDG16, including the importance of the rule of law and justice in prevention; the need to restore trust; good governance; and the foundational elements of SDG16 that can catalyse progress across the 2030 Agenda. To this IDLO would add the following action-orientated language:

- **Strengthen effective people-centred justice systems to reduce the number of people with unresolved justice needs by half by 2030.**
- **Prioritize justice in national budgets and ODA and invest in the rule of law and access to justice to catalyse progress across the SDGs, including SDGs 1, 2, 13 and 16.** The rule of law including because of its core principles: fairness, justice, equality, inclusivity and universality, as envisaged by SDG16, are key to delivering on the 2030 Agenda, including for implementing social protection systems (SDG1.3); providing basic services (SDG1.4); ensuring that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources, including ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services (SDG1.4); secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs,

knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities (SDG2.3); and developing policies to respond to climate change (SDG13.2). Furthermore, promoting diverse pathways to people-centred justice that are responsive to people's justice needs, particularly women and girls, is also critical to achieve target 16.3, the goal of access to justice for all by 2030.

- In line with SDG16.5, 16.6 and 16.7, the zero draft should **encourage states to establish beneficial ownership registries** based on a framework that *inter alia* reduces opportunities for corruption and lowers tax avoidance and evasion. This would strengthen domestic resource capacity to finance development at the local level.
- **Eliminate discriminatory laws, regulations, policies and practices**, in order to ensure that women, girls and other marginalized and excluded groups are able to contribute fully to society's sustainable development and that no marginalized or excluded group is left behind, which can contribute to restoring trust in governments and institutions. This is an action-orientated recommendation that will enable states through a unifying action to achieve gains across multiple Goals and targets, namely SDG 1.b; 5.a; 5.c; 10.3; and 16.b.