



## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

### Input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2024

1 March 2024

1. The International Development Law Organization is pleased to provide its input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2024.
2. As the only global intergovernmental organization working to promote the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, IDLO strongly believes that rule of law, featured most prominently in SDG 16, but incorporated throughout the 2030 Agenda is key to addressing global crises and accelerating progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Consistent with the UN approach, IDLO understands the rule of law as a principle of governance in which all people and institutions, including the State and private actors, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated. The Rule of law incorporates the substantive element of justice, which emphasizes equality, fairness, and non-discrimination, and includes a commitment to democratic principles and good governance. The rule of law protects important substantive rights through an independent and impartial judiciary and through laws consistent with international human rights standards. It operationalizes human rights through constitutional and legal protections, institutions for effective implementation and accountability, judicial and administrative remedies, and the legal empowerment of people to access justice and claim their rights.
4. The following sections illustrate how progress on the rule of law and SDG 16 is linked to progress on SDGs 1, 2, 13 and 17, and tackling global challenges.

#### **(a) Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body**

1. Challenges to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are mounting on all fronts. This includes rising social and economic inequalities, which have reversed three decades' worth of progress on poverty reduction;<sup>1</sup> the effects of climate change and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate hazards; food insecurity; erosion of fundamental rights and freedoms; creeping authoritarianism; shrinking civic space, which have amplified discrimination and back-sliding on gender equality; and the proliferation of conflicts.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b96b361a-a806-5567-8e8a-b14392e11fa0/content>

<sup>2</sup> <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21216.doc.htm>

2. In times of multiple crises, the situation of women and girls is often exacerbated by persistent and long-standing inequalities, including discriminatory laws and low participation in decision making and peacebuilding processes. Women are more likely to experience violence, as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and less likely to receive justice. Financing for justice and gender equality continues to be low, and rarely reaches women's organizations who are often the first responders to inequalities and discrimination.
3. SDG 16 is both a standalone goal and an enabler and accelerator of all other SDGs. It is at the heart of what makes the 2030 Agenda transformative, and it can play a vital role in addressing multiple global crises including conflict, lack of trust in public institutions and climate change. The causes and effects of these crises – and the actions needed to address them – are interconnected and deeply rooted in issues of human rights, justice, equity, inclusion, accountability, and good governance.
4. Strengthening the rule of law and access to justice, which are at the core of SDG 16, can catalyse progress across the 2030 Agenda. Empowering people and communities to claim their rights and participate in policymaking can generate transformative actions such as strengthening land governance and food security, preventing environmental degradation. Fair and effective policies and mechanisms are needed to balance the interests between current and future generations.
5. As illustrated below, IDLO's work to strengthen the rule of law and promote progress on SDG16 has provided a foundation for progress on sustainable development and is indivisibly linked to progress on SDGs 1, 2, 13, and 17:
  - SDG1: The rule of law empowers those living in conditions of poverty, inequality and insecurity to find redress for grievances, secure rights to land use and access to basic services;
  - SDG2: The rule of law advances the strong, effective and participatory governance arrangements needed for food systems and facilitate the right to adequate food and nutrition;<sup>3</sup>
  - SDG13: The rule of law ensures adherence to and accountability for the objectives of the Paris Agreement, facilitates climate justice and prevents those most vulnerable to the climate crisis from being left behind in a just transition to a sustainable and green economy;<sup>4</sup>
  - SDG17: The rule of law at the international level is the basis of multilateralism and fosters whole of society partnerships to effectively tackle existing and prospective global challenges.

**(b) three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.idlo.int/publications/rule-law-food-systems-transformation>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.idlo.int/publications/climate-justice-rule-law-approach-transformative-climate-action>

## in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets

1. Over 5 billion people globally do not have meaningful access to justice.<sup>5</sup> Closing the justice gap will require transitioning to people-centred approaches that emphasize better use of data and evidence, innovating service delivery, and utilizing diverse pathways to justice with a focus on improved outcomes for the end users.
2. Studies confirm that access to justice is an important determinant of economic growth.<sup>6</sup> For example, a 1% increase in access to justice may increase the five-year GDP per capita growth rate by 0.7 percentage points.<sup>7</sup> Improved access to justice leads to a lower share of government consumption in GDP, less public corruption, a smaller shadow economy, better protection of property rights and better regulation of credit markets.<sup>8</sup>
3. The following solutions, drawn from IDLO's programmes, showcase how strengthening access to justice can enable progress across SDG16 and other SDGs:
  - i. Promoting diverse pathways to people-centred justice that are responsive to people's justice needs, is urgently needed to achieve 16.3 the goal of access to justice for all by 2030. Customary and Informal Justice (CIJ) systems are people-centred solutions offering an effective means in which to enable SDG16.3 in that they are more accessible, cost effective and garner greater trust for significant proportion of the global population. IDLO works to increase access to justice through CIJ systems, while strengthening their linkages with formal institutions and increasing respect for human rights:
    - o In Somalia, IDLO has worked with the Ministry of Justice to support the establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres at federal and local levels. Since 2019, the ADR Centres have resolved over 15,000 cases and generated significant economic benefit for parties involved, especially women and vulnerable groups, through the recognition of child support, compensation and reparations. This improved access to justice not only directly contributes to SDG16.3, it also translating into concrete financial benefits for communities, through financial restitution as a result of decisions, as well as monetary savings from avoiding costly court fees. These can be reinvested back into the local economy that can contribute to both SDG1 and SDG2. Moreover, a significant

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<sup>5</sup> See, *inter alia*, World Justice Project, 'Measuring the Justice Gap'. Available at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/access-justice/measuring-justice-gap>; Report of the Working Group on Customary and Informal Justice and SDG16+, 'Diverse Pathways to People-Centred Justice'. Available at: <https://www.idlo.int/publications/diverse-pathways-people-centred-justice>

<sup>6</sup> A. Deseau, A. Levai, M. Schmiegelow, 'Access to Justice and Economic Development: Evidence from an International Panel Dataset' (2023). Available at: [https://arnauddeseau.github.io/files/a2j\\_and\\_growth\\_shrllll.pdf](https://arnauddeseau.github.io/files/a2j_and_growth_shrllll.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.14

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.23

proportion of the cases handled have secured land rights, especially for women and vulnerable groups, thereby contributing to SDG1.4.

- In Rwanda, IDLO has been working with the Ministry of Justice and the National Land Authority to improve land dispute resolution. The work undertaken with the Abunzi (local mediators) and with the national land authority has benefitted over 3,500 justice seekers, promptly resolving their disputes and securing land rights. Securing ownership and control over land not only elevates the overall value of the land but also fosters greater willingness among landholders to invest in and strengthen agricultural productivity, in line with SDG2.3 and SDG2.4. Additionally, tenure security promotes the adoption of climate-smart practices, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and overall long-term development in the sector, in line with SDG13.
- ii. Promoting 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<sup>9</sup>:
  - In Kenya, IDLO is working with local authorities to develop policy, legal and operational frameworks on climate change and natural resource management. The frameworks assign a key role to women-led civil society organizations and women leaders that oversee the execution of climate-related operational plans, monitor progress and report against targets. These efforts have strengthened the role of women in positions of leadership and decision making, per SDG5.4. Moreover, the efforts to integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning at county level is consistent with SDG13.2.
  - In Burkina Faso and the Philippines, IDLO is working with partners in conducting a comprehensive mapping of national climate and environmental laws to identify legal gaps as well as discriminatory provisions, with recommendations for their repeal, revision or the adoption of new laws, where applicable. Alongside this exercise, IDLO is also supporting capacity development and technical support to institutions on gender-responsive climate laws, regulations and policies to strengthen action across SDG5, SDG13 and SDG16. To promote the full and effective participation of women, IDLO is also delivering capacity development activities and workshops in order to contribute to more gender-responsive law and policymaking on climate action.
- iii. Digital innovation can significantly contribute to closing the justice gap, while improving the cost-effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability of institutions. We must also ensure that the implementation of digital technologies is equitable and inclusive and does not give rise to new forms of discrimination. IDLO

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<sup>9</sup> Statement by the Director-General, Ms. Jan Beagle, at the ASPEN Institute International Conference (2024), available at: <https://www.idlo.int/news/policy-statements/aspens-institute-international-conference>.

works with justice institutions around the world to develop context-specific and nationally owned approaches to integrating digital innovation and tools in their work, which are expanding access to justice and, more broadly contributing, to the 2030 Agenda.

- In Kenya: Since 2012, IDLO has been supporting the judiciary in its efforts to use technology to improve and expand access to justice. This has enabled the full digitalization of court administration across all courts and tribunals and automated operations leading to significant savings and efficiencies. This has directly contributed to improved access to justice foreseen by SDG16.3 and to efforts in developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions under SDG16.6.
- In Somalia, IDLO is supporting the establishment of a regulated financial sector by providing strategic guidance to the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC). This includes the support for the operationalization of GoAML, an internationally recognized electronic method for collecting and analysing financial and non-financial data to ensure anti-money laundering (AML) and combat terrorism financing, contributing to SDG16.4 and SDG16.a. IDLO has also supported the development of a national identification system (aligned with SDG16.9), which provides citizens with a unique national identification number (NIN) and a digital identity card. The NIN is improving people's access to basic services, in line with SDG1.4, while ensuring that state resources are appropriately invested and not the subject of nefarious activities, such as corruption, illicit financial flows or terrorism activities in line with SDG16.

[\(c\) Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs](#)

IDLO proposes the following transformative measures to urgently accelerate progress across the 2030 Agenda that are complementary of one another and therefore capable of maximizing results:

1. Develop effective people-centred justice systems to reduce the number of people with unresolved justice needs by half by 2030. Inclusive, effective and accountable institutions, as envisaged by SDG16, are key to delivering on the 2030 Agenda, be it implementing social protection systems (SDG1.3); providing basic services (SDG1.4); or developing policies to respond to climate change (SDG13.2). Laws that are fair and consistent with human rights standards underpin effective institutions and essential to building public trust. Conversely, public institutions that struggle with low public trust, undermine the ability of states to achieve the SDGs. Investment in essential justice services must be prioritized, not only the work of courts and prosecutors, but also that of public defenders, oversight bodies and

national human rights institutions. Enhancing state capacity to combat public corruption, strengthen integrity and promote transparency is essential to inclusive prosperity and addressing grievances that drive instability and conflict, and erode the foundation for delivering on the SDGs.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, efforts must be made to increase investment in addressing inequalities in the delivery of justice for women and girls and other marginalized groups, including addressing gender bias in these institutions and systematically integrating gender concerns.

2. Implementing a feminist approach to the rule of law can be a powerful enabler of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Put women and girls, in all their diversity, at the centre of a rule of law mandate, supporting transformative measures to reduce the widening gender justice gap. Key priorities for action include<sup>11</sup>: eliminating discriminatory laws, regulations and policies; supporting the adoption of gender transformative legal and policy frameworks at country level; combatting gender-based violence (GBV) through implementation of comprehensive survivor-centred approaches to justice, including strengthening prosecution of GBV offences; ensuring protection and support to survivors; enhancing women's leadership and participation in the justice sector; strengthening women's economic empowerment by building a gender-transformative business climate and ensuring access to justice for women entrepreneurs in both the formal and informal economy; promoting environmental and climate justice for women and girls; and realizing equal rights to food, land and other natural resources.
3. Enhance capacities to combat all forms of corruption, strengthen accountability, integrity and promote transparency at global, national and local levels, including of governments and civil society, to repair the social contract, promote inclusive prosperity and address grievances that drive instability and conflict. Successful anti-corruption efforts also increase resources available for the delivery of social services. Rule of law interventions have demonstrated efficacy in curtailing corruption and building a culture of integrity and lawfulness. Asset declaration and recovery mechanisms, such as international tax cooperation, beneficial ownership registers and civil forfeiture laws, have contributed to reducing the corrosive effects of corruption on societies, as well as detecting and preventing illicit financial flows. Digital solutions, such as e-procurement systems and electronic public registers, promote transparency and efficiency, while reducing corruption risks. Integrity-based attestation and recruitment policies and procedures have been successful in improving the ethical standards and integrity of public officials. Finally, specialized anti-corruption courts and other purpose-built bodies enable timelier and more

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<sup>10</sup> Statement by the Director-General, Ms. Jan Beagle, at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2023), available at: <https://www.idlo.int/news/policy-statements/tenth-session-conference-states-parties-united-nations-convention-against>

<sup>11</sup> Statement by the Director-General, Ms. Jan Beagle, at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2022), available at: <https://www.idlo.int/news/policy-statements/66th-session-commission-status-women>



effective resolution of corruption and related cases, ensuring the most egregious perpetrators are held accountable irrespective of their wealth or power.

(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit

IDLO has undertaken the following concrete actions that operationalize commitments in the Political Declaration:

1. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and end food insecurity ((para. 38(a) and (b))). Rural poverty and food insecurity is often linked with landlessness or insecure and contested land rights. IDLO implements rule of law solutions to promote equal access to economic resources as well as ownership and control over land and access to finance, are directly contributing to SDG1.4. and indirectly to SDG2.3.
  - o In Tunisia, in December 2023, IDLO launched a programme addressing local challenges that hamper the economic development of rural communities, limit food security and reduce farmers' ability to adapt to climate changes and invest in sustainable agricultural practices. Through targeted awareness-raising and the empowerment of landholders and food producers, the project addressed information gaps on, and disputes related to, land consolidation ensuring property rights are properly registered and documented. It is also providing training and assistance on access to credit and other financial and legal services (including climate-financing). These interventions will directly contribute to SDG1.4 and indirectly to improved agricultural productivity foreseen under SDG2.3, as well as efforts of strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards through SDG13.1.
2. Eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and removing legal barriers to discrimination (para. 38(c)). Legal and policy frameworks continue to underpin discrimination against women and girls. More than 150 countries have legal provisions that discriminate against women. These include laws that place men as head of households; forbid women to own or inherit certain assets; prohibit a woman from getting a passport without her husband's consent; and restrict the types of jobs women can do. Legal and policy frameworks too often fail to provide adequate provisions to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and stop impunity for violations.

In recognition of the persistent challenge presented by discriminatory laws, IDLO is a partner of Equality in Law for Women and Girls: A Multistakeholder Strategy for Accelerated Action, an initiative that aims to fast track the elimination of discriminatory laws by 2030. By way of example, in the Philippines, IDLO partnered with UN Women and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the primary policymaking and coordinating body for gender equality in the country, to conduct a gender assessment of Philippines laws that was presented to the Philippine Congress to enact legislative

change. A similar assessment has been carried out in Sierra Leone in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. These systematic assessments are also being carried out in Kenya and Mali, in partnership with local gender and justice institutions. Additional efforts have been made to promote gender equality through legislative reform. For example:

- In Tunisia, IDLO has worked with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and Seniors to identify the obstacles preventing the full implementation of Organic Law n°2017-58 (Law 58) of 11 August 2017 on the elimination of violence against women. Law 58 is widely considered an achievement in the fight against gender-based violence, but its application still encounters significant difficulties. A study conducted by IDLO identified the specific challenges preventing the full implementation of Law 58 and identified solutions for overcoming them. The recommendations included in the study have been validated by national stakeholders and are being used by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women, with the support of IDLO and other development partners, to eliminate discriminatory practices that are preventing women from contributing to Tunisian society and impeding the effective protection of SGBV survivors.
  - In Kenya and Myanmar, IDLO has been supporting the development and implementation of Domestic Violence legislation and regulations with a focus on mainstreaming a victim-centred approach. In Kenya, specifically, IDLO has supported the development of national and county-level policy/regulations on SGBV and on how to respond to the specific justice needs of women, thus directly contributing to both SDG16.3 and SDG5.2.
  - IDLO conducted a study on *Survivor-Centred Justice for Gender-based Violence in Complex Situations* with the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University (GWI) analyzing, *inter alia*, legal and justice interventions on gender-based violence in difficult contexts, such as conflict, health emergencies, climate disasters, organized crime, legal pluralism and political transitions. The findings are based on an extensive literature review, country context studies, 51 qualitative interviews and 6 focus group discussions in six countries, namely Afghanistan, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Tunisia. Drawing from the research, IDLO has identified strategies for GBV legal reform that includes: (i) reforming laws to reduce discrimination and strengthen women's rights within the family; (ii) revising criminal law to include offenses related to GBV; (iii) enacting special laws on violence against women; and (iv) strategic litigation.
3. Ensuring women's full access to justice and effective legal remedies (para 38(c)). In all regions of the world, many women and girls struggle to access justice, especially in conflict and crisis situations. Justice for women requires ensuring women's meaningful



and equal participation as justice providers in formal as well as customary and informal justice systems. Notable efforts by IDLO in this regard include:

i) Ensuring survivor-centred justice for GBV. IDLO's GBV work focuses on (a) strengthening the capacity of justice sector institutions to respond to SGBV; (b) increasing women's legal empowerment to access justice; and (c) supporting implementation of gender-responsive legal and institutional frameworks on SGBV. For example:

- In Uganda, IDLO facilitated access to over 25,000 people to legal aid, including over 3,000 GBV survivors.
- In Somalia, IDLO has been working through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres to support SGBV survivors with their cases.
- In Mongolia, IDLO is promoting a survivor-centred approach to combating SGBV through improved mechanisms, coordination and capacities of relevant actors to enhance sectoral and cross-sectoral responses.

ii) Promoting women's participation and leadership in the justice sector. IDLO's work in this area is multifaceted and includes: organizing capacity building programmes to improve knowledge and skills of women justice professionals. For example:

- In Liberia, in partnership with the Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association (LIFLEA) and the Gender and Security Sector National Taskforce (GSSNT), IDLO has, since 2016, supported the professional development of women in law enforcement through a Professional Development Fund. The Fund has provided scholarships to over 400 women in law enforcement to improve their professional competence and increase their chances of career advancement and complemented by a mentorship programme. The support has consolidated a network of women law enforcement officers, who are supporting each other and jointly overcoming the barriers that were preventing their professional realization.
- In Uganda, IDLO supported the National Association of Women Judges of Uganda to achieve more gender-responsive justice in courts, such as conducting a study to assess justice sector response to the crime of defilement in the last decade. In addition, IDLO is working with the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) to build the capacity of traditional leaders and community legal volunteers on gender-sensitive decision-making.

4. Preventing and combating corruption (para. 38(t)). Corruption's profound negative impact on the rule of law, good governance, and human rights threatens peace and security, hampers the provision of public services, and thwarts inclusive economic development. This not only undermines trust in public institutions but also fuels

discontent and insecurity. Addressing multidimensional challenges posed by corruption requires a holistic approach that, in addition to relying on law enforcement and investigations, also eliminates the opportunities leading to corruption, promotes economic competition, enhances accountability in the political sphere and increases the participation of civil society in decision-making processes. IDLO is implementing several initiatives aimed at reducing the prevalence of corruption. Notable results include:

- In Ukraine: With infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the war, timely supply of food and crucial goods became paramount. To curb corruption risks associated with the delivery of goods and services and help ensure uninterrupted supply in the absence of safe air and sea traffic, IDLO worked with Ukraine's State Service of Transport Safety and the Ministry of Infrastructure to develop a new system for coordinating volunteers and cargo drivers and tracking the inventory of humanitarian aid. This intervention provides a clear link between SDG16, poverty (SDG1) and food security (SDG2). IDLO has also supported the establishment of the High-Anti Corruption Court (HACC), that has yielded results in the fair and transparent adjudication of corruption cases, contributing to SDG16.5. In its March 2023 report, the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) provided that a total of 72 verdicts had been issued by the HACC since 2019, out of which 39 are final convictions, including against members of parliament.<sup>12</sup> IDLO is pleased to note that despite the challenges, Ukraine was one of the few countries that improved its score on Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perception Index.<sup>13</sup>
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), IDLO is working with the Agence de Prévention et de Lutte contre la Corruption (APLC), the Judiciary police officers (Officiers de Police Judiciaire - OPJ) and selected magistrates to: (i) develop a shared organizational framework for effective interagency operation; (ii) adopt Joint Standard Operating Procedures and supporting case referral mechanisms; and (iii) ensure that all anti-corruption actors have knowledge of how to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of corruption, in line with international standards. This support is foreseen to directly contribute to SDG16.5.
- In Armenia, IDLO supported the establishment of a new department within the Office of the Prosecutor General dealing with forfeiture of property of illegal origin pursuant to newly enacted legislation on Confiscation of Property of Illicit Origin. This included technical support on the selection of prosecutors and department leadership through an open, merit based, recruitment process. IDLO also extended institutional capacity building support by developing Standard Operating

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<sup>12</sup> Council of Europe, 'Fourth Evaluation Round: Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors.'

<sup>13</sup> <https://cpi.ti-ukraine.org/en/>

Procedures, aiding in Mutual Legal Assistance requests and facilitating cooperation with the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN). Since January 2022, the department forwarded a total of 38 cases to court, and the cumulative value of assets slated for confiscation amounts to several million dollars.

5. **Significantly reducing illicit financial flows** (para. 38(t)). Establishing financial intelligence units is a recommendation in the UN Convention Against Corruption for preventing corruption and detecting transfers of the proceeds of crime.
  - In Somalia, IDLO strengthened the work of financial intelligence units with a view to building a well-regulated financial sector that can operate in accordance with international standards. Since 2017, IDLO assisted the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC)<sup>14</sup> in defining and implementing clear procedures to strengthen its operational capacity. This included mentorship and designing bespoke training programmes, as well as increasing collaboration among relevant law enforcement agencies; and regulatory and supervisory bodies. In an example of a whole-of-society approach, the FRC also established a National Compliance Forum to foster close working relationships with financial institutions and exchange best practices and money laundering and terrorist financing trends; perform customer due diligence checks; and to identify and report suspicious financial transactions.

#### (e) Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.

- SDG 16 is both a standalone goal and an enabler and accelerator of all other SDGs. It is at the heart of what makes the 2030 Agenda transformative, and it can play a vital role in addressing multiple global crises including conflict, lack of trust in public institutions and climate change. The causes and effects of these crises – and the actions needed to address them – are interconnected and deeply rooted in issues of human rights, justice, equity, inclusion, accountability, and good governance.
- Investing in the rule of law and access to justice in particular can catalyse progress across the 2030 Agenda. Commit to halving by 2030 the number of people with unresolved justice needs, in particular those of women and girls, including through people-centred approaches that emphasize better use of data and evidence, innovating service delivery, and utilizing diverse pathways to justice with a focus on improved outcomes for the end users.

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<sup>14</sup> Somalia's Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) was created through the Anti- Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Act of 2016 to operate as a national central agency responsible for all information relating to money laundering and terrorism financing.

- A feminist approach to the rule of law, at the intersection of SDG 5 and SDG 16, can be a powerful enabler of gender equality, women's empowerment and the full realization of the 2030 Agenda. Concerted action is needed to eliminate discriminatory laws, regulations, policies and practices, enhance access to justice for women and girls, ensure women's leadership and participation in the justice sector; strengthen women's economic empowerment by building a gender-transformative business climate; promoting environmental and climate justice for women and girls; and realizing equal rights to food, land and other natural resources.
- Restoring trust in public institutions is a prerequisite for renewed social contracts that underpin inclusive and sustainable societies. Designing public institutions around people's current, and emerging needs, and providing adequate capacity and resources is key. Enhancing openness and transparency and combatting corruption at national and international levels, including by building on existing instruments such as the UN Convention Against Corruption, is critical to ensure that public resources are effectively spent, including in the context additional financing for sustainable development.
- Recognize the value of whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches and collaborations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships across government at the national level and with civil society and customary informal justice actors to promote the rule of law and access to justice. especially at the local level, which can also mitigate the impact of climate change; facilitate poverty reduction and strengthen food security.
- Member States should be encouraged to prioritize justice in their national budgets and development assistance, and to report on SDG 16 in their VNRs including the interlinkages between SDG16 and other SDGs.