

Peaceful and Inclusive Societies and Democratic Governance

10:30 and 13:30
Friday 6 February 2015

New York, New York, United States
United Nations, Conference Room 8 (CB)



Background

As the international community moves toward the post 2015 development agenda, taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals, the transformative components for this agenda will be integral to its achievements. Sustainable development aims toward a holistic integration of social development, economic development, and environmental conservation and protection. While democracy is not mentioned, per se, the transformative aspects of a sustainable development involve democratic processes. It requires and implicates everyone's participation, ensuring equitable input, self-determination and empowerment of both genders and all races and cultural groups. It also embraces democratic governance, such as rule of law, respect for human rights, accountability, transparency and effective governance. A functional democratic system secures an environment within key factors for sustainable development can unfold.

Therefore, the existence of peaceful and inclusive societies and democratic governance are linked to secure sustainable development. Democracy creates an enabling environment in which even the poorest and most marginalized can articulate their needs and shape the path towards sustainable development. In the long run, sustainable development is less likely to succeed unless it is based on an inclusive democratic political settlement.

Overall Goal

This one-day seminar aims to raise awareness on the importance of peace and inclusive societies and democratic governance within the sustainable development framework, focusing on Open Working Group 16. To this end, it will provide participants with the background knowledge and practical skills to discern, to implement and or to advocate effectively for democratic governance to promote the sustainable development agenda.

The half-day workshop will frame the discussion of linkages between democratic governance and sustainable development within the framework of the ongoing debate on Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Timothy Sisk, at the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, will present a paper developed on this topic. To this end, it will provide participants with the background knowledge and practical skills to discern the linkages of democratic governance to peaceful and inclusive societies.

Objectives

By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- More fully understand Sustainable Development goal 16, its transformative agenda, especially the link to peaceful and inclusive societies and democratic governance
- Elaborate the importance of democratic governance in the broader context of the post 2015 development framework and its implications for various areas of development
- Measure and assess progress in regard to the development framework in democratic contexts
- Discern the importance of the rule of law, access to justice and peace for sustainable development
- Identify the role of resilient communities and democratic governance within the development framework
- Identify the transformative character of the 2015 development framework and the enabling element of peaceful and inclusive societies and democratic governance

The programme will encourage a participatory approach and include expert presentations and seminar style discussions. Participants will receive a comprehensive set of reference and background material, including selected articles and other reference documents, copies of PowerPoint presentations and other relevant materials. Resource persons will comprise policy experts, senior UN officials, experienced practitioners from the NGO sector and academics from leading research institutions.

The Series is open to delegates of Permanent Missions to the United Nations and to other representatives of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Persons interested in participating are required to apply online for the course at www.unitar.org/event/new-york. For queries regarding the seminar, please call (212) 963 9196 or write to nyo@unitar.org.