



The Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network

<https://www.tapnetwork2030.org/>

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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

Recognizing the vital role of SDG16+ as a critical enabler for the entire 2030 Agenda, **governments should come to the Summit of the Future with targeted, integrated, focused and transformative commitments to accelerate action on SDG16+**. This includes domestic policies and resources, legal reforms and initiatives to advance SDG16+ at the international, national and local levels, as well as ambitious global commitments to strengthen multilateralism and international resolve to promote peace, justice, the rule of law, inclusion and institution-building. Additionally, governments must use key moments - such as the 2024 HLPF and Summit of the Future - to advance implementation and delivery of the SDGs through similar commitments to action, and ensure adequate follow-up to these commitments going forward.

Additionally, governments must use key moments - such as the 2025 World Social Summit and Financing for Development Conference - to advance implementation and delivery of the SDGs through similar commitments to action, and ensure adequate follow-up to these commitments going forward.

The Pact for the Future must call on the United Nations and its partners to ensure that the “National Commitments to SDG Transformation” called for by the Secretary-General for the 2023 SDG Summit, and any commitments made to the Summit of the Future, are adequately compiled and tracked, including by providing a transparent and inclusive platform for showcasing these commitments, helping to ensure follow-up and accountability. This platform should also showcase complementary civil society commitments and actions, alongside those of governments, to ensure that the aims and actions of all stakeholders are reflected.

The chapeau of the Pact for the Future must also recognize the critical enabling role of SDG16 in implementing the entire 2030 Agenda. Besides being a crucial goal on its own, the interlinkages between SDG16 and the other goals in the agenda, is critical for addressing the root causes of many of the world's challenges. In a world plagued by violence, violent conflicts, corruption, and widespread exclusion, greater action towards SDG16+ provides a high-yield opportunity for governments and the international community to address key challenges related to SDG implementation overall.

Recognising the geo-political challenges confronting every part of the globe, attacks on civic space and civil society which were previously cloaked under the guise of public health and security, are increasingly common and overt. Polarising narratives from state and non-state actors are shrinking the civic space and disabling civil society from carrying out its role as partners in development and in holding duty bearers to account. **Therefore, the chapeau of the Pact for the Future must also acknowledge these downward trends in civic space, and call on governments to reverse the trend and expand civic space and fundamental freedoms at all levels.**

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

Responding to the Secretary-General's call for an "SDG Stimulus Plan", **governments, donors, international organizations and stakeholders at all levels must come to the Summit of the Future with robust financial commitments to the 2030 Agenda and SDG16, as a complement to the Pact for the Future.** This includes the recognition that investments in all aspects of SDG16+ represent a high-yield opportunity for governments and others to address key challenges related to SDG implementation overall, and for the international community to respond to compounding global crises, today and in the future. Additionally, **governments must commit to meaningful reform of the global financial architecture at all levels.** This includes critical efforts to solve the increasingly urgent sovereign debt crises, to address the scourge of illicit financial flows and corruption as outlined in SDG16, and to commit to enhancing efforts to expand measurement of economic progress "beyond GDP".

Finally, donors should develop and invest in a comprehensive donor-collaborative "Global SDG16+ Fund", which will provide a critical opportunity for the international community to invest in a holistic approach to tackling some of the world's most urgent and multi-dimensional crises of today. This approach will help ensure that funding flows to civil society and grassroots groups that are often closest to challenges, and therefore most effective at advancing SDG16+ within communities.

Chapter II. International peace and security

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)

Besides being a crucial goal on its own, the interlinkages between SDG16 and the other goals in the agenda as expressed in using SDG16+, is critical for addressing the root causes of many of the world's challenges. In a world plagued by violence, violent conflicts, corruption, and widespread exclusion, greater action towards SDG16+ provides a high-yield opportunity for governments and the international community to address key challenges related to SDG implementation overall. Governments should therefore come to the Summit of the Future with targeted, integrated, focused and transformative commitments. This includes domestic policies and resources, legal reforms and initiatives to advance the SDGs at the international, national and local levels, as well as ambitious global commitments to strengthen multilateralism and international resolve to promote peace, justice, the rule of law, inclusion and institution-building.

Therefore, we call on the Pact for the future to recognize and reference SDG16 as a critical component of ensuring that the 2030 Agenda is delivered upon, calling on governments to prioritize their SDG16 implementation at all levels.

Finally, we support the inclusion of “National Prevention Plans” as proposed in the Secretary-General as a critical way of getting governments to make concrete commitments to conflict prevention and peacebuilding within their own countries, and beyond. These can serve as an important and action-oriented outcome from the Pact for the Future that will help ensure that governments deliver on their ambitions laid out in the Pact for the Future, and to help ensure follow-up and accountability for their commitments.

Finally, the most current crisis in the Middle East and the inability to rapidly and appropriately respond to safeguard lives, allows us to see the imminent and undeniable flaws of an international system which under the UN Security Council still prioritizes the status quo and geopolitics over preventing and ending mass atrocities. A Pact for the Future must also consider and undertake the inclusion of revision and restructuring the international system, including a reform of the UN Security Council.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

Amidst expansive digital space for expression, civil society is restrained from operating in numerous countries, delegitimized and faced with constant threats and intimidation. Constrained civil society participation has repercussions on the performance of global governance institutions in addition to hindering the possibility of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promotes. There have been growing constraints on media freedoms, giving restricted space for freedom of expression and access to fact-based and accurate knowledge. We express concerns about the use of social media propagating adverse messages and the ongoing risks of dis- and misinformation. In the context of safeguarding freedom of expression, focused attention should be given to those groups whose rights are in jeopardy, such as women, youth, indigenous communities, LGBTQIA+ and other marginalised groups.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization’s concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)

SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda overall cannot be achieved without building on the role of civil society and fostering a true global partnership. Thus, governments must recognize and support civil society as key partners in advancing SDG16+ at all levels. Engaging civil society can play a critical role in ensuring that governments meet their commitments to leave no one behind, to reach those furthest behind first, and to ensure that our collective efforts to implement SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda are people-centered. Governments must look to create inclusive, participatory and coherent modalities within all relevant SDG mechanisms at the local, national and global levels, benefiting from the diverse contributions and expertise of civil society around SDG16+.

We also reiterate that commitments to recognize civil society and expand civic space on all fronts are firmly entrenched within the SDGs and SDG16+ targets, and within international human rights law. Governments and donors must therefore remove barriers that prevent funding from reaching local and grassroots communities and groups that need support the most. Additionally, policy commitments to expand civic space must be matched with financial investments that support civil society at all levels.