

Turning the Tide for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

A Statement by The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)¹

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Halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the world finds itself at a critical juncture. With years of development progress erased after the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic shocks such as a return to geopolitical competition, increased polarization and mistrust, a surge in conflicts globally, rising food insecurity, the climate emergency, and many others, it is probable that the state of polycrisis will continue to characterize global affairs in the coming years. Conflict affected countries such as those in the G7+ have disproportionately felt the brunt of these crises. Only 12% of Sustainable Development Goals are on track, with none of the targets for SDG 16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies close to achievement in countries affected by conflict and fragility.

The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) played a key role in advocating for the inclusion of SDG16 in the 2030 Agenda. This advocacy was grounded in an understanding that supporting conditions for lasting peace, effective and inclusive institutions to deliver services, and access to justice underpin all other sustainable development goals: that there is no development without peace and peace cannot be sustained without development. Building on the 2030 Agenda, the IDPS reaffirmed the relevance of the [New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#) to achieve the SDGs in countries affected by conflict and fragility and committed to make concerted political and financial efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the New Deal principles in the 2016 [Stockholm Declaration](#).

The 2023 SDG Summit presents a vital opportunity for returning back on track on the 2030 Agenda and making the promise of the SDGs a reality for people in countries affected by conflict and fragility that are the farthest left behind. This is particularly true for women and young people who face disproportionate and differentiated impacts from development deficits.

Echoing the UN Secretary General's call for a [surge in commitment, solidarity and transformative action](#) to achieve the 2030 Agenda, IDPS stresses the imperative to prioritize pursuing peace and stability as fundamental enablers of all development efforts and as ends in themselves. In this regard, the recently launched [New Agenda for Peace policy brief](#) articulates an important vision for multilateral engagement to support prevention and peace in an age of polycrisis, including through accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to address the underlying drivers of violence and insecurity. Building on its inputs to the New Agenda for Peace,² IDPS stresses the relevance of 4 key areas to accelerate progress on SDG16 and the broader 2030 Agenda:

- While the SDGs rest on national commitments and leadership, a return to course is only possible through joint, collective, multilateral action as well as mutual accountability. In this regard, open and inclusive political dialogue is essential for reconstituting solidarity, trust, and cooperation vital for a renewed multilateralism that is inclusive and representative of countries that are left behind. Addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility, preventing conflict, and peacebuilding rest in supporting nationally owned and nationally led peace and development pathways. IDPS represents an ideal dialogue forum to bridge the siloes characterizing the multilateral system, by offering a platform for candid discussions between

¹ The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) is a dialogue platform comprised of the Group of Seven Plus (G7+), the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). The IDPS Secretariat is hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

² IDPS inputs to the New Agenda for Peace can be accessed in [English](#) and [French](#) at <https://dppa.un.org/en/a-new-agenda-for-peace>

development partners, civil society, and g7+ member states to achieve prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding in fragile and conflict affected settings and beyond.

- SDG16 is built on the recognition that peace and development are interlinked; that the lack of peace and stability erode development efforts and the failure of institutions to deliver sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development outcomes is a significant driver of conflict. Reiterating the [outcome of the g7+ summit](#) conducted during the 76th UN General Assembly in 2022, IDPS calls upon on the United Nations, global and regional powers, and the international community as a whole to prioritize peacebuilding and peacemaking grounded in national dialogue and reconciliation.
- Inclusive and people-centered approaches that are grounded in human security are essential to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and responsiveness of prevention and peacebuilding efforts. As articulated on the [2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#), it is vital to recognize the indispensable role of civil society and take steps to protect and nurture civic spaces³ to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Critical to this inclusion is ensuring that specific focus is placed on tackling the gendered dynamics that fuel conflict and exacerbate both gender inequality and violence. Equally critical is supporting the meaningful, inclusive and sustained participation of women, young women and young men, recognizing their valuable expertise, skills and solutions that deserve due space and consideration in peace and security related decision-making.
- Reversing the trends of deficient aid to conflict-affected countries, the underachievement in addressing fragility, and underinvestment in peacebuilding and prevention is imperative to realize the 2030 Agenda. Building on the findings of the [2022 OECD States of Fragility report](#), recognizing the relevant recommendations of the [New Agenda for Peace policy brief](#), and guided by the New Deal, transforming the funding and financing mechanisms for prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding is urgently needed. [The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#) provides an essential framework to support the transition of countries from conflict and fragility and build peaceful states and societies. It is also critical to adopt a wider resourcing lens and deepen the role of South-South, Triangular Cooperation and Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation on peacebuilding and statebuilding, which IDPS is well positioned to contribute to.

Standing at this pivotal juncture, with the SDG Summit and Summit for the Future on the horizon, IDPS encourages governments, international organizations, civil society, international financial institutions, and all stakeholders to unite in accelerating progress on SDG 16. As articulated in the New Agenda for Peace policy brief, without renewed commitments to a new multilateralism and solidarity, efforts to create a more peaceful world will fall short. Providing a unique tripartite platform for sustained political dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding, IDPS stands ready to support efforts grounded in trust, solidarity, and inclusion for achieving the 2030 Agenda for the betterment of current and future generations.

³ The [DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civic Space in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#) is being taken forward as the first international framework to support galvanizing action towards supporting and protecting the spaces within which key local peacebuilding actors and civil society organizations operate. <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-5021>