



# Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights to Achieve Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

A high-level event to examine the role of justice, security and human rights systems in achieving SDG 16+

8 July 2019, 10:00am – 1:00pm  
New York

UN Trusteeship Council Chamber

## BACKGROUND

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is an annual gathering and serves as a global platform for taking stock of and reviewing progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year the High Level Political Forum will take place under the theme of "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality". Accordingly, SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions will be featured for the first time since 2015, alongside five other goals.

Within SDG16, target 16.3 highlights the importance of "Promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all." Access to justice and the rule of law are considered cornerstones for peace and development to be sustainable, especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where institutions often lack the capacity to reach those furthest behind. <sup>1</sup>

Accountable, effective, and transparent institutions and processes that promote and expand inclusive access to justice and rule of law are considered key contributors in promoting peaceful dispute resolution and preventing the outbreak, escalation or recurrence of violent conflict. Strengthening the justice system – alongside related mechanisms to provide community and citizen security – and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law are thus vital for sustaining peace and making progress on towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>1</sup> Other goals under review will be SDG 4 on Education, SDG 8 on Growth and Employment, SDG 10 in Reducing inequalities and SDG 13 on Climate Change, and SDG 17 on Partnerships.

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## Objectives

In this context, Argentina, Austria, and the Netherlands, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Ibero-American Judicial Summit, the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries, the Ibero-American Association of Attorney Generals, the Inter-American Association of Public Lawyers and UNDP, with support from UNESCO and the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General are organizing this event on July 8 - the eve of the HLPF 2019 . Building on the previous efforts of the Global Alliance for Reporting on

Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Pathfinders' Task Force on Justice, this meeting will examine the role of national and regional justice, security and human rights systems as key factors in the promotion of peace, justice and solid institutions within the framework of a transformed society that places human security and development at its center. The objectives are to

- Convene a growing international coalition of justice, security and human rights actors involved in implementing SDG 16+ for peaceful, just and inclusive societies;
- Present national and international strategies and lessons learned on concrete ways to promote progress on SDG 16+ and the 2030 Agenda, with specific focus on justice and human rights systems;
- Strengthen the commitment of national and international justice and human rights actors to accelerate progress on achieving SDG 16+ and the whole of the 2030 Agenda.

This event will offer a platform for outlining priorities to support the rule of law and human rights within the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda. It will also offer reflections from national partners, based on experiences with UN partnerships to strengthen the rule of law, security, and human rights.

## Participants

Participants will include ministerial-level national representatives, chief justices and attorney generals, high-level officials, Permanent Representatives, partners from across the UN System, and representatives from think tanks, academia, civil society and the private sector. A draft agenda is below; the final agenda and further information on subsequent events will be circulated closer to the event.

## Location and logistics

This meeting will be held from 10:00am – 1:00pm on Monday, July 8, in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Participants not holding a valid UN grounds pass for UN Headquarters in New York are requested to RSVP in advance to receive a guest pass to enter the security check point. A government-issued photo ID must be presented alongside the special events pass.

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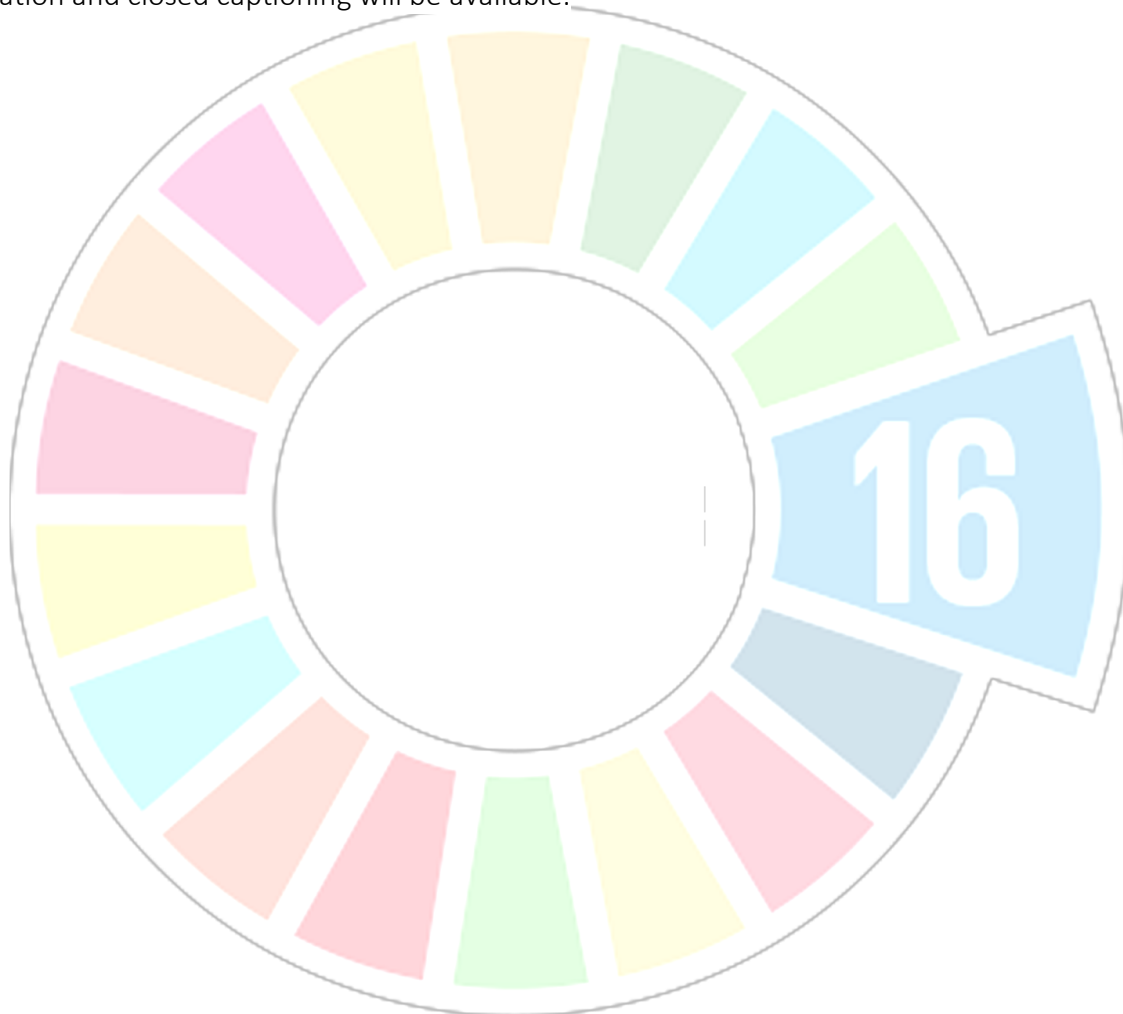




All RSVPs must be received by 1 July 2019. RSVPs received afterwards are not guaranteed entry to the event.

Light refreshments will be offered from 9:30am onwards, until the meeting begins promptly at 10:00am. Lunch will be served immediately following the event.

Translation and closed captioning will be available.



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## AGENDA

July 8th	
09:30 – 10:00	Coffee & light refreshments
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Ambassador Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN TBC</li> <li>H.E. Ambassador Martín García Moritán, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN TBC</li> </ul>
10:10 – 10:20	<b>Keynote address:</b> <b>The United Nations, the Rule of Law, and Human Rights – An Agenda for the Future</b>  <i>Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez, Under Secretary-General and Senior Adviser on Policy (delivered on behalf of the UN Secretary-General)</i>
10:20 – 11:20	<b>Panel discussion: National Perspectives on Progress and Challenges on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights to Achieve Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</b>  <i>Chair: H.E. Ambassador Ms. Lise Gregoire-van Haaren, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN</i>  <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. German Garavano, Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, and co-chair of the Task Force on Justice</li> <li>H.E. Ms. Raya al-Hassan, Minister of the Interior, Lebanon</li> <li>H.E. Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique, Inter-American Court of Human Rights and former Chief Justice of Uruguay</li> </ul>
11:20 – 12:00	<b>Panel discussion: From Targets to Reality – UN Support to Rule of Law, Human Rights and the Achievement of SDG 16+</b>  <i>Chair: H.E. Ambassador Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN</i> <b>TBC</b>

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	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs TBC</li> <li>• Ms. Pramila Patten, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict</li> <li>• Mr. Yuri Fedetov, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime TBC</li> <li>• Dr. Peter Lewis, Registrar, International Criminal Court TBC</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Member States' statements from the floor</b>
12:30 – 12:50	<p><b>Final reflection: SDG 16+ and National Justice Efforts Beyond the 2019 HLPF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. María José Segarra Crespo Attorney-General, Spain</li> <li>• H.E. Ms. María Paulina Aguirre Suárez, President of the National Court of Justice, Ecuador TBC</li> </ul>
12:50 – 1:00	<p><b>Closing remarks: Rule of Law, Human Rights and the SDGs – A Call to Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme</li> </ul>

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