

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

A side event to UNGA 71 – 20 September 2016

Agenda 2030 recognizes that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

As member states accelerate efforts to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Switzerland, in association with New York University's Center on International Cooperation, held a side event to the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly.

The event:

- Highlighted examples of national implementation of the SDG targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- Focused on innovative approaches, visions, models and tools that member states have developed in line with their national circumstances and priorities.
- Explored the role of international cooperation in sharing experience between countries and tackling transnational threats to peace, justice and inclusion.
- Deepened the discussion on next steps for partners to identify strategic priorities and work together to deliver them.

The key note speaker was **His Excellency Dr Rui Maria De Araújo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**. The Prime Minister gave a moving description of the links between peace and sustainable development, drawing on his country's experience of tackling the drivers of conflict and instability. He called for a focus on the evidence-based policies that will accelerate the delivery of all Agenda 2030 targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies in SDG16 and in other goals. Strengthened international cooperation is needed to support countries in delivering these targets, with partnership especially important in order to address regional and global challenges.

Other speakers included:

- **Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland**, who emphasized the universal nature of Agenda 2030 and the importance of all countries working to deliver targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. He cited Switzerland's support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative as an example of its commitment to universality.
- **Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Sierra Leone**, who called for increased efforts to provide access to justice for all, given current inequities between rich and poor, men and women, and adults and children. Sierra Leone is strengthening legal protections, expanding its justice system, and tackle economic and other barriers to access. The Minister called for increased innovation and a greater sharing of best practice.



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- **The Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Canada**, who explained that justice and inclusion are central to the government's domestic and international agenda, enabling the design of policies that are most likely to deliver economic, social, and environmental outcomes.
- **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation**, who shared his country's work to foster the rule of law and to tackle corruption. Regional and international cooperation is needed to support peace and to promote the exchange of international experiences. The Special Envoy also stressed the important role of civil society, the private sector, and academics and think tanks.
- **H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations**, who described Brazil's leadership in areas such as birth registration, legal and justice reform and ongoing work on transparency and privacy rights. He called for accelerated implementation by all countries based on their national contexts and priorities.

Other stakeholders also made contributions, including representatives from the g7+ group of countries, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, Together for Girls, Save the Children, and Saferworld.

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies initiative will continue to provide a platform for member states and other stakeholders to develop the strategies that will be needed to deliver SDG16 and related targets for peace, justice and inclusion in other goals. This is an area of critical importance at a time when large numbers of people feel development has left them behind, have low levels of trust in institutions, and are worried by levels of violence and instability in their societies.

Concluding the meeting, Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director of New York University's Center on International Cooperation, welcomed the consensus that had emerged from the meeting on the need for urgent work to build consensus and political momentum around strategic priorities for the delivery of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. This would provide the foundation for scaling up implementation and momentum, and for building support from all sectors and all parts of society.

The immediate priority for the Pathfinders initiative is to provide a platform for member states and other stakeholders to develop a roadmap for the delivery of SDG16 and related targets. This will include a retreat before the end of 2016 to:

- Continue national exchanges.
- Identify evidence-based policies and interventions that can accelerate progress over the next four to five years.
- Explore a strategic approach to the data that is needed to inform delivery and to monitor progress and increase accountability.
- Strengthen partnership, cooperation and movement-building, with the aim of ensuring that major actors work together effectively, according to their areas of comparative advantage.

Other side events at UNGA were hosted by the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and the 16+ Forum. These events demonstrated growing momentum behind delivery of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, as part of the universal 2030 Agenda. The three partnerships are now committed to working together to build an effective platform for progress, based on their shared commitment but differentiated areas of focus and comparative advantage.