

Taking Forward the Post-2015 Peace Goal

June 2016

1. Introduction

In September 2013, EPLO published a statement entitled [Putting Peace at the Heart of the Post-2015 Framework](#) setting out its preliminary position on the Post-2015 Framework and the role of the EU and EU Member States (MS) in establishing it. The statement made recommendations for the inclusion of peace and security¹ in the new framework, urging the EU institutions and EU MS to show leadership in relevant UN-level negotiations in order to ensure that these issues are taken forward.

The purpose of this updated statement is to assess the extent to which EPLO's recommendations were incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to call for implementation strategies which underpin the importance and interlinkages between peace, security, stability, development and human rights, and to support EU's thinking in light of the review of the European Consensus for Development.

2. Background

Since the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2002, there has been a growing recognition of and substantial evidence to support the existence of strong linkages between peace, security and development.² The adoption by the UN of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in September 2015 marked a clear recognition of the fact that 'doing development differently' (i.e. focusing on political issues such as peace and governance, as well as economic factors) is essential to meeting development objectives.

EPLO welcomed the inclusion in the Report of the UN Secretary-General's (SG) High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the recommendation: 'Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Public Institutions'³ and its subsequent translation into SDG 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

¹ For the sake of clarity, references to 'security' in this statement should be understood as human security (i.e. the security of people).

² See [World Development Report 2011](#), [Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals \(New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States\)](#), [Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda](#), [Synthesis Report of the 2013 Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster](#).

³ [Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (May 2013)

3. Principles to be respected in the Post-2015 Framework

In 2013, EPLO made recommendations on the following principles to be respected in the Post-2015 Framework. An assessment of each principle's inclusion in the new framework is provided below.

- **Peace as an objective:** *The framework should treat the promotion of peace and the prevention of conflict as an objective in its own right rather than just as an enabling condition for development.*

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that sustainable development cannot be realised without peace and security, and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. 'Peace' is an objective in its own right in the Post-2015 Framework with SDG 16 recognising the need to build peaceful, just, safe and inclusive societies which provide equal access to justice and which are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, as well as on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are also addressed. The 2030 Agenda further stresses that 'we must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including through ensuring that women have a role in peace-building and statebuilding.'⁴

- **Global goals:** *The new framework and its high-level goals should apply to all countries.*

With the 2030 Agenda, the UN has committed to 'a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets'.⁵ Indeed, one new feature is the universality of the new agenda, meaning that it applies to all countries at all levels of development, taking into account their different capacities and circumstances.

- **Careful selection of indicators:** *The new framework should include baskets of indicators (e.g. quantitative, capacity and perception) to measure progress towards each goal. Each indicator should be disaggregated to the maximum extent possible (e.g. by gender, age, racial / ethnic / religious / income groups etc.).⁶*

The Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) was tasked to develop a 'Global SDG Indicator Framework' to assist the implementation. This framework was put forward for adoption in March 2016 at the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission and subsequently submitted for adoption to the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly (GA). The framework should be ready for Member States to use at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2016. The HLPF will continue to meet every year focusing on several SDGs at a time. SDG 16 will be discussed during the 2019 HLPF themed 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness: peaceful and inclusive societies, human capital development, and gender equality'.

⁴ [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (September 2015), p. 9

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 3

⁶ Saferworld, (2013), [From the High Level Panel report to an accountability framework](#)

There will be three tiers of indicators:

- Tier 1: agreed international standards are available and data can be gathered
- Tier 2: standards exist, but data cannot be easily gathered
- Tier 3: international standards are not yet agreed and need to be developed

A work plan will be devised for the development of Tier 3 indicators. However, more clarity is required with regard to the overall timeframe of this process and concrete opportunities for civil society to provide input for the formulation of these indicators.

The proposed global indicators⁷ will be complemented by indicators at regional and national levels to be developed by Member States. National responses to the overall implementation of Agenda 2030 could build on existing planning instruments such as national sustainable development strategies. Member States⁸ are further encouraged to conduct regular and inclusive progress reviews at national and sub-national levels involving all relevant stakeholders, notably civil society. Regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

Member States have pledged to leave no one behind. To ensure equality of opportunity, the IAEG-SDGs has committed to ensuring disaggregation of all relevant indicators with respect to income (especially for the bottom 20%), gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, location, disabilities, and other relevant characteristics. Targets will only be considered 'achieved' if they are met for all relevant income and social groups.

The third IAEG-SDGs meeting which took place on 30 March – 1 April in Mexico City advanced discussions on global reporting mechanisms, disaggregation of data and tracking of indicators, with a focus on *inter alia* unavailable data.

The IAEG-SDGs should convene regular meetings with civil society organisations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders to brief them on the state of play, with regard to the global and regional indicator development process, how various inputs have led to substantive or marginal revisions and what opportunities are created to ensure an inclusive process.⁹

- **Context as the starting point:** *Baselines against the targets in 2015 should be established in each country and strategies for how to approach them based on the specific context should be devised.*¹⁰

In addition to developing baselines for those targets where national baseline data does not yet exist, Member States will need to devise options for context-specific baselines and benchmarks which can help to project realistic aspirations for progress at the national level. A collective commitment to ensure that there is baseline data for every global indicator in every country is essential. The Global Partnership on Development Data (GPDD), which

7 For a detailed overview of SDG 16 targets and indicators, see annex.

8 EU Member States have been asked to take part in a '[Regional Survey on the Planning, Implementation, Follow-up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)' conducted jointly by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia (ECA R-UNDG). Most EU Member States already responded. Completed questionnaires are available on the [UNECE website](#).

9 Recommendation put forward by the SDGs Watch Alliance during its meeting on 19 February 2016.

10 Saferworld, (2013), [Addressing conflict and violence from 2015: A vision of goals, targets and indicators](#)

brings together government statistical offices, international organisations, CSOs, foundations and the private sector, has been set up with the aim of developing a global strategy to fill critical gaps, expand data accessibility, and galvanise international efforts to ensure a baseline for post-2015 targets by September 2016.¹¹

- **Conflict sensitivity:** *The new framework should recognise the impact which development processes can have on conflicts. Goals and targets should be designed to minimise the risk of violence and maximise progress towards peace.*¹²

Some peacebuilding CSOs hold the view that both the Addis Ababa Accord on Financing for Development¹³ and the SDGs outcome process have failed to address properly the need for highly-tailored, conflict-sensitive, local solutions when it comes to addressing conflict.¹⁴

- **Coherence/consistency:** *The new framework should be designed and implemented in such a way as to ensure that progress in certain areas does not become separate from or undermines progress in others.*

The need for policy and institutional coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is acknowledged by the Report of the UNSG's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) and the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (2015). This priority lies at the heart of SDG 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development'. Translation into national policies and actual implementation will need to be closely monitored to assess steps taken to move from rhetoric to practice.

- **Inclusive, people-centred processes:** *The new framework should be developed and implemented in as an inclusive and participatory way as possible, including a clear role for civil society. In this context, the global public consultations which took place in 2012 and 2013 should be continued and, to the maximum extent possible, widened during the discussions about goals, targets and indicators, in order to ensure the involvement of people living in countries which are conflict-affected and/or in situations of fragility.*

The Post-2015 Framework makes clear commitments for an inclusive, people-centred agenda. SDG 16 foresees specific targets on inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. The key role of civil society both in the development and implementation of the SDGs is also acknowledged. Implementation will need to be closely monitored in order to ensure that commitments on paper translate into concrete action on the ground.

- **Focus on equality:** *The new framework should be designed and implemented in such a way as to maximise its impact on reducing inequalities.*

The Post-2015 Framework puts particular emphasis on global commitments to enabling equal opportunities and reducing inequalities. Systematic follow-up and review of implementation are highlighted as key processes for ensuring that no one is left behind.

¹¹ <http://www.data4sdgs.org/>

¹² International Alert, (2012), [What should replace the UN's Millennium Development Goals?](#)

¹³ [Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#), July 2015

¹⁴ International Alert (2015), [All the bells and whistles: The SDGs are here and they brought peace with them!](#)

4. Issues included in the Post-2015 Framework

In its 2013 statement, EPLO highlighted a number of issues which had been addressed in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development¹⁵ and in the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals¹⁶, and recommended their inclusion in the Post-2015 Framework. EPLO welcomes the adoption of specific SDGs referring to these issues.

- *Freedom from violence and personal security for all*
SDG 16.1 'Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere'
- *Respect for human rights*
Specific reference to protection and promotion of human rights is made in SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14 and 16.
- *Gender equality*
SDG 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'
- *Access to justice for all*
SDG 16 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'
- *Reduction in transnational crime and other "external stresses" which generate violence (e.g. illicit trade in drugs, small arms and light weapons, illicit financial flows, land grabbing etc.)*
SDG 16.4 'By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime'
- *Resolution of divisions within societies through inclusive political dialogue ("Legitimate politics")¹⁷*
SDG 10 'Reduce inequality within and among countries' frames this as a commitment to building political consensus through a transparent and inclusive process.
- *Access to social services for all – framed as appropriate social protection systems and measures for all*
SDG 1 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' frames this as a commitment to implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.
- *Opportunities for decent livelihoods for all*
SDG 1 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere'
SDG 8 'Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'
- *Transparency and accountability in the management of state revenues*
SDG 16.6 'Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels'

¹⁵ [Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development](#) (June 2006)

¹⁶ See <http://www.pbsbdialogue.org/en/id/about-international-dialogue/>

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

5. Role of the EU Institutions and EU Member States

As a strong opponent of a 'business-as-usual' approach to the post-2015 development agenda, the EU has played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through public consultations¹⁸, dialogue and research.

The European Commission (EC) communications of February 2013¹⁹, July 2013²⁰, June 2014²¹ and February 2015²², as well as the Council conclusions of June 2013²³, December 2013²⁴, December 2014²⁵, May 2015²⁶ and October 2015²⁷ articulate the EU's vision for a post-2015 agenda which needs to be global and universal, acknowledging that peace and security are prerequisites for sustainable development and lasting poverty eradication.

EPLO welcomes the EU's commitment to take this agenda forward, both inside the EU and through its external policies by supporting implementation efforts in other countries, in particular those most in need. At the same time, EPLO urges the EU and EU MS to follow up on the positive steps which they have taken so far by supporting a tougher monitoring, accountability and review framework than existed for the MDGs to help ensure delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

The EC is currently carrying out in-depth gap analysis to assess where the EU stands in addressing the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda, and how the EU's SDG implementation strategy should look. This process should be complemented by a transparent and inclusive consultation process with relevant stakeholder groups, including civil society and local actors.

As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, EU MS should show political leadership in the formulation of development strategies and the integration of the SDGs in national policy measures. National indicator frameworks for the follow-up and review process, which will form the basis for reviews at regional and global levels, should be well articulated, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development.

The EU and EU MS should continue to provide input into relevant discussion fora (e.g. the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, etc.) and take the lead in advancing an overarching strategy for the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework in a participatory and inclusive way, both at home and abroad.

¹⁸ See EPLO's contribution to the European Commission Public Consultation '[Towards a post-2015 development framework](#)', September 2012.

¹⁹ '[A Decent Life for all: for All: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future](#)' COM(2013) 92, February 2013

²⁰ '[Beyond 2015: towards a comprehensive and integrated approach to financing poverty eradication and sustainable development](#)' COM(2013) 531, July 2013

²¹ '[A decent life for all: From vision to collective action](#)' COM(2014) 335, June 2014

²² '[A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015](#)' COM(2015) 44, February 2015

²³ '[Council Conclusions on the overarching post-2015 agenda](#)', June 2013

²⁴ '[Council Conclusions on financing poverty eradication and sustainable development beyond 2015](#)', December 2013

²⁵ '[Council conclusions on a transformative post-2015 agenda](#)', December 2014

²⁶ '[Council conclusions on a New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015](#)', May 2015

²⁷ '[Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development \(PCD\): 2015 EU Report](#)', December 2015

ANNEX

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

NB: Indicators marked with an asterisk (*) are still being reviewed by the IAEG-SDGs.

IAEG-proposed global targets	IAEG-proposed global indicators
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by age group and sex
	16.1.2* Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population (disaggregated by age group, sex and cause)
	16.1.3 Percentage of the population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
	16.1.4* Proportion of people that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1 Percentage of children aged 1-17 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
	16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
	16.2.3* Proportion of young women and men aged 18-24 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1* Percentage of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms (also called crime reporting rate)
	16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a percentage of overall prison population
16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	16.4.1* Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
	16.4.2 Percentage of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1* Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by these public officials, during the previous 12 months, disaggregated by age group, sex, region and population group
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a percentage of original approved budget, disaggregated by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
	16.6.2* Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by age group, sex, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
	16.7.2* Proportion of countries that address young people's multi-sectoral needs within their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Percentage of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with a civil authority, disaggregated by age
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.1* Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1* Percentage of victims who report physical and/or sexual crime to law enforcement agencies in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by age group, sex, region and population group
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1 Percentage of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, disaggregated by age group and sex