

2026 Civil Society Forum on SDG16+



in the margins of the SDG16 Conference



When: Tuesday 16 June 2026; 10:00 - 18:00 ET

In-Person: UN Conference Room 12, New York/USA *[subject to availability and approval]*

Zoom link: bit.ly/CivilSocietyForum16Plus *(Virtual participation will be possible from 10:30-13:00)*

In the margins of the 2026 SDG16 conference in New York, the [Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding \(CSPPS\)](#) and the [Transparency, Accountability & Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) will host a pre-conference **Civil Society Forum**. This meeting will convene practitioners, organisations, and networks working across SDG16 (peace, justice, civic space, human rights, accountable institutions) and its interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda. With severe backsliding in peace, democracy, and human rights, widespread conflict, and existential threats to civil society on the rise, this Civil Society Forum comes at a critical time for civil society to speak out collectively against these disturbing downward trends at international and national levels, and call on governments to take action. The programme will take place in two parts:

- Part 1 Morning Session (10:00-13:00) - Civil Society Strategy Session
- Part 2 Afternoon Session (15:00-18:00) - Multistakeholder, Interactive Dialogue

The Forum will take place on Tuesday, **16 June 2026**, from **10:00 – 18:00 ET** in UN Conference Room #12 in New York, USA. **Registration is required.** *Please note: Virtual participation will be possible for the morning session. The afternoon session is only accessible in person. Register to join the morning session virtually at: bit.ly/CivilSocietyForum16Plus.*

Background on Civil Society Engagement at the SDG16 Conference

In the lead up to the 2026 SDG16 Conference, CSPPS and the TAP Network have convened a series of consultations to prepare the Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+, which will serve as an input to the SDG16 Conference. The Civil Society Forum will have a hybrid morning segment to review and discuss the final version of the 2026 Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+. The afternoon session will feature two interactive dialogues, bringing together civil society, member states, UN agencies and others. It is hoped that the final 2026 Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+ can present an important rallying point for mobilising and coordinating civil society advocacy.

Find the preliminary programme for the 2026 Civil Society Day below

Preliminary Programme (as of 4 June 2026)

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	MODERATOR/SPEAKER	OBJECTIVE
MORNING SESSION - Civil Society Strategy Session			
10:00 - 10:15	Opening remarks by Italy, UNDESA, IDLO	Ms. Daniela Tonon, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Mr. David LeBlanc, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UNDESA Ms. Jan Beagle, Director General of the International Development Law Organization (TBC)	Organisers of SDG 16 Conference provide opening remarks on
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to 2026 SDG16 Conference + 2026 Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+	Mr Peter van Sluijs & Ms Elena Marmo	Introduction of the new SDG16+ Declaration and introduction of the drafting process to date
10:30 -11:30	[Hybrid] Discussion on 2026 Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+	Moderator: Peter van Sluijs, CSPPS 30-45 Minutes: Reflections from Civil Society colleagues from their work on the thematic areas of the Declaration 15-30 minutes: Strategy for presentation and outreach	Quick Reflections from Civil Society colleagues from their work on the thematic areas (2 minutes each - followed by discussion): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen: Civic Space, Democracy Civil Society - Gina Romero, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association - Transform: Economic Justice, Financing & Structural Inequality - Regina Portilla, Peace Direct (TBC) - Account: People-Centered Justice, the Rule of Law and Ending Impunity - Akhila Kolisetty, Namati - Nurture: Peacebuilding & Conflict and Violence Prevention - Nick Zuroski, Alliance for Peacebuilding - Defend: Human Rights & Fundamental Freedoms and Leaving No One Behind - Jesselina Rana, CIVICUS Consultation with global civil society on the Declaration and its presentation on 17 June.
11:30-13:00	[Hybrid] A Civil Society Strategy for Beyond 2030	Moderator: Elena Marmo, TAP Network Introductory Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arellys Bellorini, CEPEI - Veronica Brown, Women’s Major Group 	Consultation with global civil society on peace, justice, civic space in a SDG framework beyond 2030

		Coordinator (TBC) - Harshani Dharmadasa, UN Foundation (TBC)	
13:00 - 15:00	<i>Break</i>		
AFTERNOON SESSION - Multistakeholder, Interactive Dialogue on SDG16+			
15:00 - 16:15	<i>Interactive Dialogue 1: Stocktaking: Pursuing Peace, Justice, and Inclusion in a Turbulent World</i> Moderated by: PSL	Speakers include: - Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding and Peace Support (TBC) - Ambassador Lewis G. Brown Permanent Representative of The Republic of Liberia to the United Nations (TBC) - CSO: Natalia Peláez Pérez, Fundacion LATIR Respondents: - Zia Ur-Rehman, ADA	Interactive dialogue stocktaking of the current challenges impeding progress on peace, justice, and inclusion. <i>Guiding Questions:</i> - <i>Where are some of the key challenges and gaps around SDG16+ issues currently?</i> - <i>Which areas of SDG16+ require additional support or financing, and how can this community mobilize or galvanize support for key initiatives around these spaces?</i> - <i>Are there any overlooked areas/issues that can either be catalysts or roadblocks to implementation of SDG16+, that aren't included in SDG16 targets themselves? (ie. global military expenditures dwarfing aid spending, shrinking civic space, etc.)</i>
16:15 - 16:30	<i>Break</i>		
16:30 - 17:45	<i>Interactive Dialogue 2: Action: Transformative Action for Sustainable Development</i> Moderated by: EM	Speakers to include: - Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs (TBC) - Mr. Romain Darbellay, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding and Fragility, Swiss Development Cooperation (TBC) - CSO: Leonie Mutoni, ACE-AJ Respondents: - Moses Isooba, Forus - Ajmal Ramyar, APT	Interactive dialogue to focus on tangible recommendations for transformative and accelerated action on SDG16 now and toward a sustainable development framework <i>Guiding Questions</i> - <i>Where are some of the key moments for mobilization and action in 2026 and beyond, and how can champions of SDG16 collaborate more effectively around these opportunities?</i> - <i>Where are some of the key interlinkages between SDG16 and other SDGs that we can further develop, and how do we engage with other key moments in this regard?</i> - <i>Are there any specific areas for potential follow up or ongoing dialogue that we may collectively benefit from going forward?</i>
17:45 - 18:00	Conclusions and closing remarks	Peter van Sluijs - CSPPS, Elena Marmo - TAP	