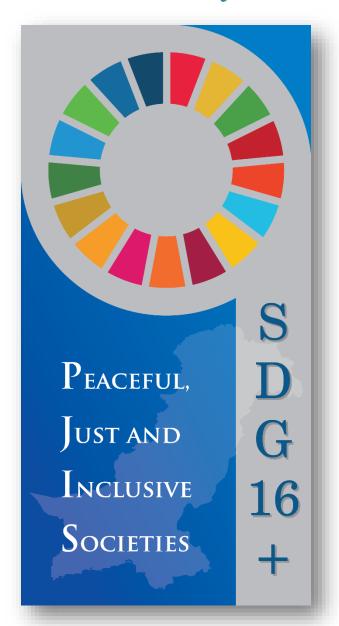# PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE PAKISTAN

SDG 16+❯Key to achieving SDGs Global Agenda

At the core of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. This is due to the fact that strong inclusive, transparent, and effective institutions are required to achieve all the SDGs. As such, SDG 16 on "promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions on all levels" is a catalyst for the attainment of all SDGs. That is, to achieve all else, SDG 16 is integral and will lead to all the other SDGs.

From SDG16 to SDG16+

As per report "the roadmap for peaceful, just and inclusive societies"[1]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for: Peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. The agenda pledges to tackle inequality, corruption, poor governance, illicit financial and arms flows, and other factors that give rise to violence and insecurity.

Goal 16 is the main goal for fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. But SDG16 should not be seen in isolation. It has strong links with other goals, in line with the integrated and indivisible nature of the agenda.

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[1] Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2017), The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – A Call to Action to Change our World. New York: Center on International Cooperation, available at http://www.cic.nyu.edu/pathfinders

In all, 36 targets directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice, with only a third of these found in SDG16. We call these the SDG16+ targets.

The SDG16+ targets are strongly linked to all Sustainable Development Goals. As the 2030 Agenda recognizes, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Without peace, justice and inclusion, none of the SDGs can be delivered in full. Violence and injustice destroy lives and make it inevitable that people and communities will be left behind. Patterns of exclusion, and the grievances that they feed, undermine societies and may lead to insecurity and violence. Weak institutions and poor governance make it impossible for societies to reach their full development potential. But social, economic and environmental progress play an equally important role in creating the conditions for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Inclusive economic growth and social development reduce the risks of violence and conflict, and help societies to work together for a better future. Environmental sustainability and resilience are also critical to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

PEACE in this context means much more than just the absence of physical violence. While often the search for peace is seen as an end to armed conflict or the enforcement of stability, for many peace-builders the absence of physical violence is only the shallow beginning of a much longer-term peace-building process. A deep or positive peace includes changes in the attitudes of conflicting parties and the transformation of the systemic and structural elements that form part of the reasons for why the tensions that are present in every society spill over and become violent. Acknowledging and transforming structural violence, including the systems responsible for marginalizing and excluding sections of society and the historical and contemporary causes of poverty, inequality and under-development, is key to understanding how peace and development imperatives are inextricably linked.

The need to address the root causes of conflict and to tackle economic and social inequalities and exclusion; to strengthen good and inclusive governance; to fight against all forms of discrimination; and to forge unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms is imperative. A range of issues, necessary to create a holistic positive peace that is sustainable over the long run and goes beyond dealing with the symptoms of violent conflict and insecurity. These include transparent and accountable governance and decision-making, tackling corruption, promoting access to security and justice, and addressing external factors such as flows of arms, drugs and illicit financial flows. As well as seeking to reduce levels of violence, many of these issues are captured in the 12 targets included in Goal 16, which aims to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." However, other important drivers of conflict are addressed elsewhere in the framework. For example, Goal 5 focuses on gender equality. The norms and values that underpin gender inequality often drive and perpetuate conflict. Indeed, the countries that are less peaceful also have lower levels of gender equality. Other types of inequalities are also important. For example, a large body of evidence

demonstrates that horizontal inequalities between social groups – including economic, political and social inequalities – can exacerbate grievances and lead to conflict. Many goals and targets across the framework seek to address this issue directly and indirectly through a focus on inclusive development with inter-dependability among targets of different SDGs.

Following targets under various SDGs share a cross cutting diagonal towards achieving a peaceful society;

SDGs for Peaceful Societies

(4.7) Culture of peace and non-violence

(11.7) Safe public spaces, (4.a) education facilities, (11.1) housing, (8.8) workplaces and (11.2) transport

(16.4) Arms flows

(8.7) Forced labor, modern slaver and human trafficking

Peaceful Societies

(16.1) All forms of violence

(16.2) Violence against children

(5.2) Violence against women and girls

(5.3) Child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation

(8.7) Child labor, child soldiers

(10.7) Safe migration

4.7	*By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*

Target 4.7 explicitly links education to the broad Sustainable Development agenda and captures the transformative aspirations of education in relation to other SDGs. It calls for key themes to be mainstreamed in curricular contents, teaching practices and assessment and be given greater importance in policy planning, even if these aims present a monitoring challenge.

The global indicator to monitor this target looks at the extent to which global citizenship education, education for sustainable development and gender equality are mainstreamed in national education policies, curricula content, teacher education and student assessment. The global indicator reflects the fact that the international community has recognized the importance of monitoring the content of education. This is positive, as it

encourages countries to reflect on what is taught in classrooms, and how, not just on numbers enrolling in or finishing a cycle of education. Promoting education is one of the key factor for ensuring lasting peace.

16.1 *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere*

While we have no common agreement on what "significantly" means, this target offers a practical push forward in both recognizing the link between conflict and development and counting, at a disaggregated level, violent deaths. Right now, there is no official database that counts violent deaths by country (much less by age, gender, etc.) so putting this indicator forth would go a long way in tracking violence nationally and at global level.

16.2 *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*

Violence against children is often thought of as sex trafficking, child marriages, children who are sold for body parts, child labor, and organized crimes. But violence also occurs in everyday places when children are whipped in to line at school- this teaches children that violence is good discipline. When children are beaten at home this shows children that violence is a normal part of domestic life. When Children are hit by police this shows violence is ok from authority.

Violence against children is often an unspoken thing in our communities and it will keep happening until someone steps in and speaks out. It's a pain that echoes down through generations. Approximately one billion children worldwide have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence in the past year. Target 16.2 invites organizations at the global, regional, and country level, who are committed to ending violence against children to accelerate action in areas like preventing online violence, addressing violence in the everyday lives of children, and preventing violence against children facing conflict and crisis.

5.2 *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*

Target 5.2 with respect to bringing peace to the societies focuses on gender equality which is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes by mitigating risk of violence, abuse and exploitation will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

5.3 *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*

This indicator may be partially but is very relevant within Pakistani context. Female genital mutilation may not be prevalent in our society but child and forced marriages still remain a very native practice. Although the forced and child marriage statistics show a decrease in the amount of these cases but this may not be reflective of the issue on the ground.

Early intervention can make sure those at risk are given full support and families can also be educated early about the violence, which could reduce the risk to younger siblings.

8.7 *Take immediate and effective measures to* **eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking** *and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms*

This is arguably the most direct target focusing on the issue of human trafficking, and has been celebrated by the anti-trafficking field. In our national context people are without work, and the jobs that are available to

them do not offer an escape from poverty. Poverty is one of the root causes for slavery and human trafficking. Situations of desperation are created when families and parents struggle to put food on the table, access health care, or afford school fees to educate their children, offers to travel abroad in the hopes of a better life become more tempting for parents and children alike. Many cases of human trafficking in Pakistan begin with an individual looking for decent work. If nations truly invest in economic opportunities over the next 15 years, we would address one of the main vulnerabilities that place people at risk to trafficking in the first place.

Half of children in countries affected by conflict such as ours had left primary school. Children who are not in school are more likely to be working, and are vulnerable to trafficking. Although basic laws to address human trafficking are in place in Pakistan, conviction rates remain extremely low, creating a high profit low risk industry. The ILO estimates that human trafficking and forced labor create illicit profits of $150 billion annually. A recent report by UNICEF illustrated how violence to young children can affect the development of the brain, similar to the effects of malnutrition.

8.7 *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the* **prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms**

Target 8.7 is also linked to several other targets, including target 16.2 aimed at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 4 on Education; and Goal 5 on ending violence against women and girls and gender equality, including harmful practices. To support the achievement of Target 8.7, what's needed is a multi-sector approach to child labor, including legal reform, education, social protection, access to health services and the data collection, and supports partnerships with UN agencies and other key stakeholders to mount a sustained effort to accelerate child labor reduction across regions for instance UNICEF supports communities in changing their cultural acceptance of child labor, while supporting strategies and programming to provide alternative income to families, quality education, and protective services.

Despite a steady decline in child labor due to initiatives by the provincial levels and civil society organizations, progress is far too slow. At current rates, more than a million children in Pakistan will still be trapped in child labor by 2020. The continuing persistence of child labor poses a threat to national economy and has severe negative short and long term consequences for the fulfillment of children's rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – including denial of education and frequent exposure to violence.

10.7 *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*

Recent trends in our country show that large movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are difficult to predict and that territories are often grossly unprepared for the arrival of such populations. For instance in wake of the armed operations in the tribal areas of Pakistan against the militants left the host communities unprepared for the surge of IDPs moving out of FATA. This unpreparedness resulted in a shortage of essential services such as housing, education, healthcare, and legal service creating tensions with host communities. Accordingly, the creation of preparatory plans for increased inflows of migrants and IDPs and the linkage of such plans to sectorial policies works to increase coherence in policies at both the territorial and national level. Having a plan or strategy in place to deal with rapid changes in migration trends at the local level works to facilitate safe and orderly migration and ensures that the territory is prepared to uphold the rights of migrants even in times of crisis.

Target 10.7 presses states to become more sincerely involved in conflict *prevention* rather than in interventions aimed at "resolving" conflicts; this would entail a collective commitment to drastically reducing arms exports, and to promoting peace-building initiatives, rather than exploiting regional conflicts for geopolitical gains. Our

foreign policy also needs to follow human rights norms, rather than profit maximization objectives. State should also commit to true responsibility sharing for hosting displaced persons through fair and predictable resettlement quotas, rather than continuing to outsource this to neighboring territories and IDP/migrant camps..

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*

Target 16.4 stresses that illicit financial flows generated from crime, corruption, embezzlement and tax evasion represent a major drain on the resources of developing countries, reducing tax revenues and the scope for progressive taxation, hindering development and the rule of law, exacerbating poverty and inequality, and undermining the enjoyment of human rights. Tax evasion and abuse are considered to be responsible for the majority of all illicit financial outflows, followed by illicit financial flows relating to criminal activities, such as drugs and human trafficking, the illicit arms trade, terrorism and corruption-based illicit financial flows.

This target specifically emphasizes the need for due diligence and due process in the fight against illicit financial flows, for better protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers and for incorporating human rights considerations in the management of returned stolen assets. It concludes with recommendations on how the goal of curbing illicit financial flows could be operationalized within the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations.

4.a *Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all*

The roots of target 4.a can be traced back to the concept of child-friendly schools promoted by UNICEF which says such schools should be child-centered, encourage democratic participation and promote inclusiveness. However, it is expensive to carry out the observations needed to monitor whether these principles are followed. This makes it a difficult target for national and global comparisons. In our country attention has shifted to look at specific aspects like water & sanitation and school related violence, which are more easily measured, although perhaps less likely to capture the spirit of an 'effective learning environment'.

Achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all will require increasing efforts, especially in our country and for vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people, refugee children and poor children in rural areas. Equity issues constitute a major challenge in education as children from the richest 20 per cent of households achieved greater proficiency in reading at the end of their primary and lower secondary education than children from the poorest 20 per cent of households. According to a survey data by Pakistan Reading Project, urban children scored higher in reading than rural children. The lack of trained teachers and the poor condition of schools are jeopardizing prospects for quality education for all.

11.1 *By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slum*

Rapid urbanization without proper planning and governance mechanisms can lead to tenure insecurity and spatial inequalities. Expanding slums and informal settlements increase poverty, pollution, health, and environmental risks. Displacement from urban development can lead to food insecurity, loss of community structures, and the marginalization of certain segments of the population. It is thus essential to collect data on the proportion of the population living in slums, informal settlements or those living in inadequate housing so that appropriate policies for addressing housing issues can be developed.

The unprecedented proliferation of slums and informal settlements and a chronic lack of adequate housing, continues to be amongst the major challenges of urbanization. Slums, informal settlements and inadequate housing remain the visible manifestations of poverty and inequality in cities. Inadequate housing complements

the measurement of slums, particularly in the developed world, in order not to leave anyone behind. Slum upgrading and adequate housing have an equalizing impact in the distribution of prosperity.

11.2 *By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons*

In Pakistan like many developing countries formal public transport has deteriorated, meanwhile informal transport dominates service provision Safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable public transport can contribute to social equity. Public transport connects people and integrates distant parts of the city. Restricted mobility is a fundamental component of social exclusion and a decisive factor in inequality and poverty. Insufficient mobility generates and reproduces new inequalities. The access to public transport is measured at city level.

Public transport requires urban patterns that promote efficient and equitable mobility for all. The quality of newly built areas of the cities has been in detriment, making it very difficult for cities to expand public transport networks. Addressing the mobility challenge calls for a paradigm shift in urban planning, encouraging compact cities and a better provision of public space.

11.7 *By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities*

Peaceful cities function in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner only when private and public spaces work in a symbiotic relation to enhance each other. Public space generates equality whereas inadequate, poorly designed, or privatized public spaces generate exclusion and marginalization. Target 11.7 focuses on increasing the capacity of cities to create safe and generative urban spaces that support the increased engagement of youth in the socio-economic development of cities and improving the quality, quantity, distribution, inclusiveness, accessibility and safety of public space.

This target calls for the interventions, contributing to increasing open spaces for all. The main focus is the safety of women, girls and children contributing to reducing the proportion of people victim to harassment or sexual harassment and persons with disabilities for improved accessibility.
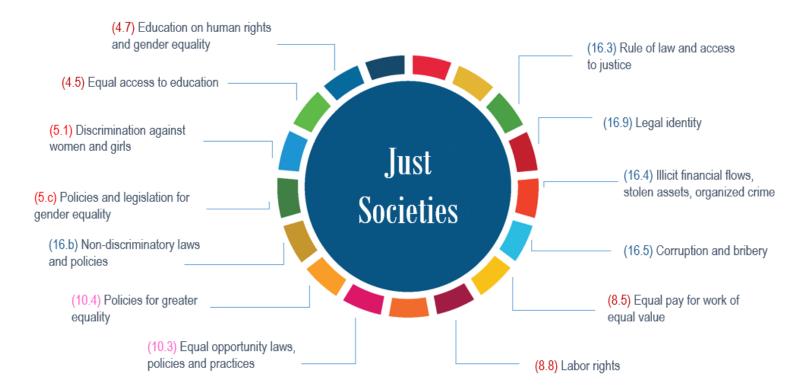
SDGs 2030 Agenda aims to ensure **JUST SOCIETIES** across the globe. It is no overstatement to say that fair, affordable, and accessible justice systems must form the bedrock of more inclusive societies, and lead us to a successful 2030 Agenda.

When citizens' legal needs remain unmet, this can have adverse effects on other areas of their everyday life, e.g. income, housing loss, health, or employment issues. Unequal access to justice further undermines equality in society; particularly as disadvantaged and vulnerable groups disproportionately experience legal hardship (e.g. family law, consumer finance). Unresolved legal disputes (e.g. family, employment, and housing) can lead to further legal, social and health-related problems and costs. The inability to resolve legal problems diminishes economic opportunity, reinforces the poverty trap and undermines human potential and inclusive growth.

Effective access to justice services is a crucial determinant of inclusive growth, citizen well-being and sound public administration. The rule of law, security and justice influence economic performance, and business & investment climate. Countries with trusted justice systems report higher levels of GDP per capita, property protection rights and national competitiveness. Legal certainty, predictability and businesses' trust in justice

systems help positive investment decisions and promote competition. Following targets under various SDGs when put together shapes up to a roadmap towards achieving a society where justice prevails;

SDGs for Just Societies

(4.7) Education on human rights and gender equality

(4.5) Equal access to education

(5.1) Discrimination against women and girls

(5.c) Policies and legislation for gender equality

(16.b) Non-discriminatory laws and policies

(10.4) Policies for greater equality

(10.3) Equal opportunity laws, policies and practices

Just Societies

(16.3) Rule of law and access to justice

(16.9) Legal identity

(16.4) Illicit financial flows, stolen assets, organized crime

(16.5) Corruption and bribery

(8.5) Equal pay for work of equal value

(8.8) Labor rights

16.3 _Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all_

This indicator gets to the heart of what justice systems do – which is resolve disputes. Disputes between people, between businesses, and between citizens and their governments. The indicator also captures criminal justice issues as well. Justice systems and the rule of law contribute to sustainable development through resolving land and natural resource disputes, keeping governments accountable, and giving businesses the confidence to enter into and enforce contracts. All of these (amongst many others) lie outside of the criminal justice system. It is important to see also how this global indicator captures all this.

The common understanding behind SDG16 is that progress on peace and development depends on the creation of inclusive societies in which the rule of law and human rights are respected. While Target 16.3 on rule of law and access to justice helpfully captures this ambition, the longer-term challenge is determining how progress will be measured and ensuring that monitoring in turn strengthens the rule of law and access to justice for all.

16.9 _By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration_

Through target 16.9 by making the invisible legally visible, the SDGs promise to promote more inclusive development. However, requiring legal identity to enable access to rights and services could have the

unintended effect of further excluding some of the most marginalized populations who face serious barriers in obtaining legal identity.

Pakistan, however, has virtually attained this target by providing legal identity to its citizens, including birth registration. Although there was no singular model for providing a legal identity, the SDGs encouraged states to provide people with free or low-cost access to widely accepted, robust ID credentials as the UN sees ID as an enabler to achieving other SDGs in areas relating to social protection, health, finance, energy, and governance.

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_

This global indicator for illicit arms flows clarifies the measurement challenge. In order to generate better information on illicit arms flows, states need to determine—for example through tracing—the illicit nature of the arms that they seize, find, or that are surrendered to them.

Measurement depends on country-specific circumstances and capacities. This makes it a tricky target to achieve if we look at it from local perspective as corruption at the state level is usually backed by the governments. Measurement on its own, however, does little to fulfill the aim of reducing illicit arms flows in line with Target 16.4. This target also provides to the states tools to strengthen anti-money laundering legal frameworks and develop capacities of national agencies to investigate money laundering and terrorism financing, disrupt illicit financial flows and support the recovery of stolen assets. Asset recovery is the most innovative chapter of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

16.5   _Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms_

Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes, perverting the rule of law. Many people, especially the poor, women and minorities face the necessity of paying bribes to gain access to essential services. Economic development is stunted because foreign direct investment is discouraged and small businesses often find it impossible to overcome the "start-up costs" required because of corruption.

This cross-cutting goal is fundamental to realizing the whole post-2015 development agenda but, barriers exist to the achievement of these targets, including drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. Such threats erode social and economic development, and human rights, and flourish where the rule of law is weak and criminal justice ineffective.

In the last two years UN has supported 27 States to improve their domestic legislation to prevent and fight corruption and to ensure it is in compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption. Strengthening national institutional and policy frameworks and the capacity of national authorities to fight corruption is important too. UN has been helping to train investigators, auditors and magistrates to detect corruption and training programs on investigating corruption, money laundering and asset recovery are being developed in Panama. Mock trial training courses for prosecutors and investigators have also been held.

8.5   _By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value_

Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress. . The creation of quality jobs will

remain a major challenge for almost all economies. There are many problems with the UN's SDG goals, including the degree of corporate involvement, inadequate appreciation for public services and lack of a fundamental challenge to business-as-usual capitalist economic policies. Despite these problems, this appears to be the first time countries around the world including Pakistan have committed to achieve full employment and decent work for all.

Target 8.5 for sustainable economic growth requires societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working age population.

8.8   *Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment*

Economic growth contributes to sustainable development where it extends benefits to all people, actively reduces inequalities and avoids harm to the environment. For growth to be inclusive, it must be decent work equally accessible to women and men. With women are still less likely to participate in the labor force, and more likely to take the worst jobs in it - insecure, unsafe and poorly paid jobs - inclusive growth remains far out of reach.

Target 8.8 aims to achieve economic rights and growth for all by promoting decent work, equal pay for equal work, equal access to economic assets and opportunities, and the fair distribution of unpaid care work. Specific support for informal workers helps them claim their rights and have a voice, including through trade unions.

10.3   *Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard*

Inequality emerged as a central issue for the SDGs because of the fact that inequalities in income and wealth cause economic instability, a range of health and social problems, and create a roadblock to the adoption of pro-environment strategies and behavior. Social and economic inequalities tear the social fabric, undermine social cohesion, contribute to environmental problems and prevent nations, communities and individuals from flourishing.

Dealing with internal country inequalities requires enhanced fiscal and policy space to enact country-specific policies necessary for improving the lives of everyone, especially the income and financial outlook of the poor people. Government must make sure that companies must promote equal opportunity and empowerment. One way of achieving this is through researching the barriers currently preventing minority groups, women and other socially disadvantaged people from fully accessing and participating in the company and also value chain, as well as providing ways to overcome these barriers.

10.4   *Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality*

To combat inequality Target 10.4 proposes job creation a priority in all countries, and access to, or loss of, paid employment is a key determinant of income inequality. In emerging and developing economies like ours, the creation of paid employment for those at the bottom of the wage structure, who are disproportionately women, contributes to reducing inequality.

Fiscal policies can compensate to some extent for inequality in the labor market, through both progressive taxation systems and transfers that tend to reduce inequality in household incomes. Emerging and developing economies should increase tax revenues through a variety of measures, including by broadening the tax base.

Setting minimum wages also contribute effectively to reducing wage inequality and reducing the gender pay gap. Achieving equal pay between men and women through policies aimed at combating discriminatory practices and gender-based stereotypes about the value of women's work.

In some developing economies, raising the income of low-income groups has been achieved through direct employment programs (as in India and South Africa) and cash transfers (as in Pakistan through BISP). In the end, the most effective and sustainable route out of poverty for the working-age population is a productive, fairly paid job.

16.b   *Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development*

The indicator to measure the progress on this target looks at the proportion of 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.

Slowly and gradually efforts are under way to make national and international institutions more effective, inclusive and transparent. Voting rights assigned to various groups of countries in international institutions is one indication of inclusivity at the international level which eventually will have a positive trickle-down effect at the national,, regional and communities level.

5.c   *Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels*

Gender inequality is one of the biggest obstacles to sustainable development, economic growth and poverty reduction. Important issues such as violence against women, economic disparities and the low participation of women in political decision-making has barred the progress so far.

Target 5c advocates equal opportunities for men and women in economic life, the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, the elimination of early and forced marriage, and equal participation at all levels.

5.1   *End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere*

Target 5.1 measures whether national laws exist to promote gender equality and non-discrimination against women and girls. Areas of law to be monitored as part of this target are tentative but could include: whether equal pay for work of equal value is guaranteed in law; whether national legislation is in line with International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 183 on maternity protection; whether national law prohibits discrimination based on a definition of discrimination against women in accordance with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

It also oversees whether the national law provides equal rights for women and men with respect to inheritance and property; and the existence of laws (including criminal) against sexual assault. For each area of law under consideration, the indicator is the number of countries with specific legislation to promote gender equality and non-discrimination.

4.5   *By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations*

Target 4.5 ensures equity is bolstered at the country, institutions and people's level in terms of equal access and participation in education including people from marginalized and vulnerable groups. One key aim of higher education is to take able students to the stage where they can contribute to the national development of their

country; this level of education is crucial for building a strong human capital base – training professionals such as teachers, doctors and engineers.

Global comparisons of education disparities are currently possible only by sex, location and household wealth. The search for measures of other markers of disadvantage – notably disability, migration and displacement, language and ethnicity, citizenship status – needs to continue.
For example, the continuing neglect of mother-tongue-based multilingual education helps explain large disparities in education outcomes. By one measure, about 88% of people around the country lack access to instruction in a language/regional they speak or understand.

4.7   *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*

Target 4.7 measures the extent to which gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed in national education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessments. UNESCO receives and analyzes country reports used as data for this indicator.

SDG 4.7 aims to provide learners with the knowledge and competencies they need to make all of the SDGs a reality. The focus is on cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioral learning outcomes that help learners in dealing with the particular challenges addressed by the SDGs. There is also an urgent need to make education more relevant to local and national needs and this is addressed via SDG 4.7. But if SDG 4.7 is not properly understood then implementation will be weak and this confusion exists, in part, because of the scope of the target.

SDG 16 also has a focus on important drivers of conflict including access to justice, corruption and bribery, transparency, fundamental freedoms and participatory decision-making. These drivers of conflict are often activated when various actors, be it governments, societal factions, or even corporations seek to enforce ideologies or acquire resources and power. Emphasizing the role of **INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES** for the attainment of all other SDGs has become the core objective with the principle of indivisibility of the SDGs, focusing on SDG 1 on the eradication of poverty and SDG 5 on gender equality, and narrowing in on the crucial role of SDG 16 on building strong and inclusive institutions. Inclusive societies are needed to ensures that the need for effective governance is fulfilled - that government institutions can provide the essential goods and services that the citizens require, so that citizens may be productive and shape the society in which they live, leading to a better society for all wherein one community can relate to another despite diversity.

SDGs tackle governance, inclusion, participation, rights and security. The goal's aim is to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". In order to have an inclusive society focus should be given on participatory democracy and good governance. Much of the discussion of this highly controversial SDG16 has focused on reducing violence, security, the rule of law, and creating strong, inclusive and effective institutions to deliver justice and public services, alongside the difficulty of creating appropriate targets and metrics. SDG 16 is both an end in itself, and a crucial part of delivering sustainable development in all countries. It has in fact been seen by many commentators as being the transformational goal and key to ensuring that the Agenda can be accomplished.

Following targets on their successful implementation will ensure achieving open and inclusive societies across the globe;

SDGs for Inclusive Societies

(16.6) Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

(1.b) Institutions and policies for poverty eradication, (11.3) inclusive urbanization, (16.a) violence prevention, and (17.1) tax collection

(10.7) Migration policies

(10.5, 10.6) Global financial and economic institutions

(17.10) Equitable trade system

Inclusive Societies

(16.10) Public access to information

(5.5) Women's participation and leadership

(16.7) Inclusive and participator decision-making

(10.2) Social, economic and political inclusion

(4.7) Promotion of global citizenship

(16.8) Participation in global governance

16.6 _Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels_

This is a catch-all target that offers the ideal outcome with little indication of measurement or means of implementation. One concrete place to begin to judge this target, however, is budget transparency. Basic public data at the country and sub-national level of plans for spending versus actual spending would require effective institutions that allow citizens to hold them to account.

Transparency and Accountability is not only a goal in itself but also a prerequisite for successful development in many areas. Access to accurate information about the environment, private sector, government and public services, policies, budgets and goals is the foundation of well-founded decisions and action and a way forward to an inclusive society.

1.b _Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions_

Target 1.b calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Despite progress over the past decade, increasing social protection for those most in need remains a priority. Globally, 18,000 children still die each day from poverty-related causes, and only 28 per cent of employed women are effectively protected through contributory and non-contributory maternity cash benefits. Most poor people remain outside social protection systems, especially in low-income countries.

11.3 *By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries*

By 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities, making cities critical in achieving a sustainable future for the world. Businesses, together with Governments at various levels, and civil society organizations and citizens are collectively engaged in pursuing ambitious objectives to make cities more competitive, safe, resource-efficient, resilient and inclusive. Key areas of need in achieving progress on Goal 11 are;
1) Identifying and agreeing the most sustainable ways to achieve the targets- what activities should be ceased and which ones accelerated;
2) Building appropriate capacity and skills across these stakeholder groups to deliver;
3) Attracting/securing finance, innovative designs and delivery models and projects for integrated city infrastructure– including buildings, energy, mobility, telecommunications, water, sanitation and waste management services, and;
4) Ensuring practical processes for multi-stakeholder engagement in all stages of urban development that build consensus, inclusion, resilience and sustainability.

17.1 *Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection*

In order to provide for a comprehensive framework of anti-abuse measures the European Commission presented its proposal complement the existing rule on hybrid mismatches. The rule on hybrid mismatches aims to prevent companies from exploiting national mismatches to avoid taxation. In addition to the proposal the Commission also published its Staff Working Document. The Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive contains five legally-binding anti-abuse measures, which all Member States should apply against common forms of aggressive tax planning.

The stability of the economy and the performance of countries' public financial management systems are two significant factors affecting the outcome of growth and development policies: these have a far better chance of success if they are implemented in a propitious environment. Progress in this respect also enhances domestic accountability towards citizens and predictability for private investors. Target 17.1 encourages countries to improve their macro-economic framework and upgrade their public finance management systems with a variety of instruments. Macroeconomics assessments are of particularly importance in the context of budget support contracts since a stability-oriented macroeconomic policy is an eligibility criterion to the instrument.

10.7 *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*

In the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development meeting, the civil society organizations launched the 'Stockholm Agenda'. This document on migrant and migration-related goals and targets explicitly calls for the root causes that force people to migrate to be addressed through action on employment and social protection; the voice of migrants and diaspora to be included in the formation of development policy; and the SDGs to uphold the rights of migrants alongside other groups.

To which now, in four of the SDGs migrants are included among other groups in gaining access to rights (gender equality and labor rights) and in data collection. This is an important step. It reminds those engaged in development that migrants are people with rights the same as everybody else.

10.5 *Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations*

10.6 *Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions*

These targets call for a preferential treatment for developing countries and the least developed countries in trade can help reduce inequalities by creating more export opportunities. Major developed country markets already offer duty-free market access to the least developed countries on most of their tariff lines. But even when they do not, as in the case of some agricultural products, the average applied tariff rate is often close to zero per cent.

The share of exports from the least developed countries and developing regions that benefitted from duty-free treatment increased from 2000 to 2014, reaching 79 per cent for developing countries and 84 per cent for the least developed countries. The comparative advantage of the least developed countries in duty-free access varies depending on the product groups analyzed.

Almost all agricultural products from the least developed countries were exempt from duties by developed countries, versus 74 per cent of products from developing countries. Shares of exports exempt from duties diverged even more for textiles and clothing: the rate for both product groups for the least developed countries was around 70 per cent.

17.10 *Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda*

During the past 15 years, developing regions have represented a growing share of international trade, with their world merchandise exports increasing from 31.1 per cent in 2001 to 44.6 per cent in 2015. Moreover, developing regions overall have maintained a trade surplus vis-à-vis the rest of the world. For the least developed countries, however, the share in world merchandise exports decreased from 1.1 per cent to 0.9 per cent from 2011 to 2015. Much of that change can be attributed to the fall in commodity prices.

Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizes all available resources. Enhancing support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, is fundamental to equitable progress for all

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*

Peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are at the core of sustainable development. Several regions have enjoyed increased and sustained levels of peace and security in recent decades. But many communities still face protracted armed conflict and violence, and far too many people struggle as a result of weak institutions and the lack of access to justice, information and other fundamental freedoms.

Independent national human rights institutions play an important role in ensuring that States deliver on their human rights obligations and that no one is left behind. By the end of 2016, 37 per cent of countries had a national human rights institution that was compliant with internationally agreed standards (the Paris Principles), while 57 per cent of countries had been reviewed for compliance by their peers.

16.7 *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels*
16.8 *Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance*

Efforts are under way to make national and international institutions more effective, inclusive and transparent. Over the past 10 years, nearly two thirds of 144 countries with available data were able to plan their national budgets effectively.

Voting rights assigned to various groups of countries in international institutions is one indication of inclusivity at the international level. For example, while developing countries account for 63 per cent of voting rights in the African Development Bank, this figure is only 35 per cent in the International Monetary Fund and 38 per cent in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank Group

16.10 *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements*

A free press is closely linked to access to information and the protection of human rights, but the trend in this regard is discouraging. The number of journalists killed increased from 65 in 2010 to 114 in 2015, despite the fact that, by 2013, 90 States had adopted laws on freedom of and/or access to information.

Legislation that calls for freedom of information has increased steadily, but slow or inefficient implementation of such laws remains a concern. More than 110 countries have adopted freedom of information legislation and policies. However, expert assessments suggest that 47 of those countries fall short of having clear legal provisions for exceptions to that right; while another 47 countries lack sufficient provisions for public education.

10.2 *By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status*

The labor share of GDP, which represents the proportion of wages and social protection transfers in an economy, provides an aggregate measure of primary income inequality. A shift of income away from labor towards capital has contributed to rising inequality. Globally, the labor share of GDP decreased from 57 per cent in 2000 to 55 per cent in 2015, mainly owing to stagnating wages and a decline in employers' social contributions in developed regions, while the trend was stable or slightly upward in developing regions.

The voices of developing countries still need to be strengthened in decision-making forums of international economic and financial institutions. Moreover, while remittances can be a lifeline for families and communities of international migrant workers in their countries of origin, the high cost of transferring money continues to reduce such benefits.

4.7 *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*

Extent to this target the parameters are global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: national education policies, curricula, teachers' education and student assessment.

Goal 4 strongly supports the reduction of persistent disparities. To fulfill the promise of universal primary and secondary education, new primary school teachers are needed, with current estimates showing a need for nearly 26 million of them by 2030 to complete this target.

Globally, women's participation in parliament rose to 23 per cent in 2016, representing an increase by 6 percent over a decade. Slow progress in this area is in contrast with more women in parliamentary leadership positions. In 2016, the number of women speakers of national parliaments jumped from 43 to 49 (out of the 273 posts globally); women accounted for 18 per cent of all speakers of parliament in January 2016.

Globally, women's participation in houses of parliaments reached 23.4 per cent in 2017, just 10 percentage points higher than in 2000. Such slow progress suggests that stronger political commitment and more ambitious measures and quotas are needed to boost women's political participation and empowerment. Women are still underrepresented in managerial positions. In the majority of the 67 countries with data from 2009 to 2015, less than a third of senior and middle management positions were held by women.

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Peace & Justice Network (PJN) Pakistan is a national registered civil society network with a network base of specialized 45 organizations in area of rule of law, human rights, and governance, with direct national coverage of over 70 percent of the Pakistan including FATA, AJK and GB, focusing on implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. We believe that if we want Peace in Pakistan, we have to work for Justice.

PJN's mission is to help build institutions which can strengthen democracy, deliver quick and inexpensive justice, and resolve conflict in a way that protects the rights of citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution, laws and international commitments pertaining to Pakistan". PJN as an idea is to make civil society as the voice of citizens and transform the rule of law and its reform to be inclusive, consultative and reflective of the aspirations and needs of the citizens. PJN provides a common and neutral platform for civil society, academia, legal experts, justice institutions, policy makers and government organizations to work together.