Concept note
The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies:
Business for a Better World: How companies promote peace, justice, and inclusion

Side-event at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly, September 18th, at 4 pm in the offices of White & Case LLP, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York

Business is promoting peace, justice, inclusion—and can make an even more significant contribution. Through their core activities and Corporate and Social Responsibility efforts, many companies are supporting United Nations (UN) Member States to promote peace, justice, inclusion.[1] Business is also supporting Member States, the United Nations (UN) organization and international system to deliver on the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[2] Companies have information[3] and tools[4] which can strengthen national reporting efforts, further strengthening their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is important, as National Statistics Offices typically collect only 40-60% of the data needed to report on the 2030 Agenda, and little of the data needed to report on peace, justice, and inclusion.

There is a need to leverage business' contribution to peace, justice, inclusion, and development in all its forms. Business' contribution to peace, justice and inclusion is often not understood, not reflected in national reporting efforts, and not fully leveraged through sustained engagement in national development efforts. There is a need to identify what can be done to increase awareness—both within private sector networks, among governments and civil society organisations— of the role of private sector role in advancing peace, justice, and inclusion. How can businesses be more involved in national reporting processes, and related development efforts?

Side-event objective: leveraging business' contribution to peace, justice, inclusion, and development by:
- Showcasing how business is advancing peace, justice, and inclusion: concrete actions to, for example, reduce illicit financial flows and corruption, promote the rule of law, ensure public access to information and promote fundamental freedoms.
- Increasing awareness of how businesses can strengthen national reporting efforts.

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[1] For example, White&Case trained Ghanian lawyers in legal ethics and is setting up law school in Bhutan. LexisNexis has supported Myanmar's constitutional development process by training parliamentarians. McKinsey has conducted research to support international efforts to advance women's rights. Finding, inter alia, that advancing gender equality would add $12trillion to global growth, this research makes a powerful case for advancing women's equality. Goldman Sachs has conducted SMEs—to facilitate women's economic empowerment. In Jordan—where a rapid influx of refugees led to massive pressure on municipalities—Deloitte supported local governments to develop strategies to improve solid waste management.

[2] RELX Group has created the SDG Resource Centre as a 'one-stop shop' for the information that Member States, UN, and other development professionals need to design evidence-based initiatives to advance the SDGs. Drawing on 2-3m resources per day—articles, webinars, videos and other material organised by SDG and by country—and offering community spaces to enable global collaboration, https://sdgresources.relx.com makes content that is normally behind a pay-wall available free-of-charge to all. White&Case conducted a global review of Voluntary National Reviews—national reports on progress on the SDGs—providing the evidence-base for effective UN support to advance peace, justice and inclusion globally.

[3] Business data—e.g. on relative number and pay of male and female staff—can strengthen reporting and efforts to promote peace and justice.

[4] For example, Deloitte's data visualisation and analysis tools make data understandable to, and useable by, non-statisticians, so data can inform policy development. RELX Group's HPCC tracks where money is held and how it flows, supporting reporting on indicator 16.4.1 (measuring total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows), strengthening efforts to recover and return of stolen assets, and combat organised crime. Tools such as this, can reduce the corruption which costs 5% of GDP ($2.6 trillion, World Economic Forum); increases the cost of doing business; diminishes government capacity to achieve the SDGs by reducing resources and efficiency; and increases inequality. Companies' sustainability reports—reflecting the economic, environmental and social impacts caused by their everyday activities—can help organizations to measure, understand and communicate their economic, environmental, social and governance performance, and then set goals, and take steps to enhance their contribution to (or reduce their negative impact upon) peace, justice and inclusion.

- Highlighting the work that the UN is doing with the private sector to promote a sustainable and equitable vision of progress based upon the UN Charter.
- Strengthening a constituency of visionary business leaders committed to promoting peace, justice, and inclusion, and to working with governments and civil society through reporting processes to achieve this.
- Encouraging Member States' representatives responsible for reporting to engage private sector: future reports draw upon private sector data and tools, and reflect private sector contributions to peace and justice in all its forms.

Invited speakers and respondents include leaders and prominent persons from UN Member States, major global corporations, civil society organisations, UN and other international entities.

Moderator:
- Mr. Nick Kristof, New York Times columnist

Background

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a coordinating platform for United Nations (UN) Member States, private sector, civil society, and international entities to work together to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The Global Alliance is:

- Led by the Governments of Cabo Verde, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and United Kingdom; civil society organisations the New York University Centre on International Cooperation (NYU CIC), Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA); and private sector companies Deloitte Ltd, LexisNexis, and White&Case LLP.
- Co-facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Alliance connects Member States with the expertise and resources they need—from wherever it exists in the international system—to be able to report progress towards peace, justice and inclusion, and its links to the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The effect is to leverage the potential of partnerships, data and reporting, to promote peace and prosperity for all people. The UN General Assembly was explicit: the 2030 Agenda can only be achieved if governments, civil society and private sector work together. The Global Alliance is an institutional innovation which enables this joint action.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal and transformative vision to eradicate extreme poverty over 15 years. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the 2030 agenda presents 17 interdependent social, economic and environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address the issues that communities everywhere face at this time of change and challenge: refugee flows, poverty, climate change, terrorism, etc. The 2030 Agenda is an urgent call to massive action at a time of unprecedented opportunity and threat. Governments are responsible for delivering on the 2030 Agenda—but not alone. Rather, the 2030 Agenda envisages the Government as the convenor of an agenda to be implemented by civil society, private sector, academia, national human rights institutions. Achieving the 2030 Agenda, then, requires joint efforts and 'new ways of working' at all levels: a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, supported by a UN and international system working in partnership.

SDG 16 commits UN Member States 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.'[5] Goal 16 underpins achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Peace underpins progress in all its forms.

Without justice—institutions which deliver the goods and services (health, education, infrastructure, etc) necessary to achieve each of the Goals—none of the SDGs will be achieved. Without inclusion—the ability of all people, in every part of society, to obtain those goods and services, and to participate in the legislative, policy development and planning processes which define where, how, and to whom they are delivered—the needs of vulnerable groups in particular go unmet, and human development is either not achieved, or not sustained.

The 2030 Agenda includes measurable targets and indicators and a reporting framework. Tracking progress against the SDGs is essential to be able to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Reporting drives progress for several reasons:

- Accountability: Reporting stimulates action for implementation, promoting progress towards each of the SDGs.

- Inclusion**:** Inclusive planning, monitoring and review processes create an opportunity for people—in all communities, civil society, private sector, and government from local to national level—to influence the decisions that affect them.

- Information: When all people, in every part of society, can share relevant information—about their needs, obstacles and opportunities for effective development—laws, policies, plans, projects, programmes and other development initiatives are evidence-based.

- Effective development: These processes enable people from diverse constituencies to shape a vision for the society in which they live, work and do business; to define how they will contribute to its realisation; and the support they would need to do so. This shared, nationally-defined vision of a peaceful and prosperous future for all provides the foundation for national development and international support efforts.

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[5] Goals related to the key themes of SDG 16 (peace, justice and inclusion) are found in a further 24 targets, from 7 other goals, which directly relate to these themes. In addition to targets and indicators included in SDG 16, the 2030 Agenda includes a further 24 targets from 7 other goals which directly relate to 'peaceful, just, and inclusive societies': 4.7 on a culture of peace, non violence and global citizenship; 5.2 on violence against women and girls; 5.3 on child marriage and female genital mutilation; 8.7 on child labour and soldiers; 10.7 on safe migration; 8.7 on forced and modern slavery and human trafficking; 11.7, 11.1, 11.2, 8.8 and 4a on safe public spaces, housing, transport, workplaces and education facilities; 8.5 on equal pay for equal work; 8.8 on labour rights; 10.3 on equal opportunities, laws, policies and practices; 10.4 on policies for greater equality; 5c on policies and legislation for gender equality; 5.1 on discrimination against women and girls; 4.5 on all forms of discrimination in education; 1b on institutions and policies for poverty reduction; 17.3 on tax collection; 11.3 on inclusive urbanisation; 10.7 on migration policies; 10.5 and 10.6 on global financial and economic institutions; 17.10 on an equitable trade system; 10.2 on political, social and economic inclusion; 5.5 on women's participation and leadership.