



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Voluntary supplemental
indicators for Goal 16
on inclusive, just and peaceful
societies

September 2017

Voluntary supplemental indicators

To achieve the SDGs, the world community has agreed on a set of indicators to measure progress. This process has identified a range of indicators that tap critical aspects of the SDG Agenda, but for several of the goals, and perhaps particularly for SDG 16, the current crop of indicators still falls short of covering the full letter and spirit of the goals. Answering the specific call for such efforts set out in the Agenda 2030 Declaration, this voluntary supplemental indicator framework develops a set of SDG 16 indicators to better measure critical aspects of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

We draw on a range of international normative frameworks to inform the supplementary indicator framework, but put special emphasis on the Community of Democracies Warsaw Declaration.

SDG 16 will affect progress towards the other SDGs, and a supplemental indicator set for SDG 16 will therefore also supplement the other SDG indicators. In deciding between indicators, we rely on the following criteria: relevance, simplicity, feasibility and policy actionability.

For the development of the supplemental indicators, the Community of Democracies, with the technical assistance of Dr. Havard Nygard (Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo), engaged in a consultative process convening a Group of Experts who provided key input and assisted in reviewing the proposed voluntary supplemental indicators for the 12 targets under Goal 16. Additionally, this process benefited from comments received on behalf of members of the Community of Democracies at two presentations made in Governing Council meetings.

This initiative was made possible thanks to the generous support of the governments of the United States, Sweden, and Japan.

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

Global indicators:

- 16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- 16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- 16.1.4: Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Total number of refugees by country of origin, due to conflict and violence

Relevance:

An abundance of research exists establishing that violence and conflict leads to increased numbers of refugees. The number of refugees thus is an important element in the overall measure of how peaceful a country is. The indicator captures the effect of violence on individuals and societies.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that, in theory, can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Readily available data already exists, produced, for instance, regularly by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The indicator could and should be collected by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to directly track the efficiency and effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing refugee flows. The indicator can directly inform policies, both short and long term.

Suggested indicator: Total number of internally displaced persons due to conflict and violence

Relevance:

As for refugees, there is a clear link between violence and conflict and the production of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Presently, there are many more IDPs than refugees in the world, a full accounting of the extent of conflict in a society thus necessitates data on both IDPs and refugees.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that, in theory, can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Data is not as routinely and regularly collected as data for refugees, but established data collection efforts exist through, for instance, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Data collection could and should be handled by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to directly track the efficiency and effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing and managing IDPs. The indicator can directly inform policies, both short and long term.

Suggested indicator: Firearms related injuries per 100,000 populations

Relevance:

Countries with a large number of firearms related injuries are inherently more violent than other societies. This aspect of the degree to which a country is “peaceful” is poorly covered in the existing global indicators. It is an important supplement to the global indicators’ focus on homicides and direct conflict deaths.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that, in theory, can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Firearms related injuries are routinely tracked in many developed countries by law enforcement and health authorities and appear in disaggregated statistics, either as administrative or survey data. The data can and should be collected at the national level by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The extent of firearms related injuries is an important benchmark for evaluating the efficiency of policies aimed at addressing violence. This proposed indicator directly captures this without producing perverse incentives.

Suggested indicator: Total number of extra-judicial killings

Relevance:

The indicator speaks directly to several principles in the Warsaw Declaration, especially principles 11 and 15. Countries with regular occurrence of extra-judicial killings are not peaceful and not governed by just institutions (this indicator is consequently also relevant under 16.10).

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that, in theory, can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

This indicator is not routinely collected by NSOs. By its very nature, the indicator represents information that many governments would not want to release. Several international data collection efforts exist, however. In particular, the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project regularly collects an indicator that could be used to directly measure this (v2ckill).

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to directly track the efficiency and effectiveness of policies attempting to reduce rates of extra-judicial killings.

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

Global indicators:

- 16.2.1: Proportion of children aged 1–17 years 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 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Number of child soldiers in state and non-state armed groups

Relevance:

Using children as soldiers is prohibited by the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Yet, both state and non-state groups routinely make use of child soldiers, many of these forcibly recruited and retained. Child soldiering has dramatic effects for the physical and mental health and development of children. As such it represents a particularly egregious violation of 16.2, yet it is not covered by the global indicator set.

Simplicity:

The indicator we propose is simple and easy to understand.

Feasibility:

Presently, no systematic and routine data collection efforts exist that measure the number of child soldiers. There has been attempts by several NGOs to ascertain the number of child soldiers, but these estimates are not reliable. A way forward could be for the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict to begin work towards developing the methodology necessary to collect this data, which in theory is eminently feasible to collect. In this, NSOs and the international community will be able to draw on solid research to aid such efforts.

Policy actionable:

When collected the indicator will be easily tracked and can be used directly in the formulation and evaluation of policies.

Suggested indicator: Number of children out of school due to conflict and violence

Relevance:

The right to access to education is a principle in the Warsaw Declaration (principle 6). A large body of research has shown that conflict and violence, under specific circumstances, deprive large amounts of children access to education, and that the effect, in terms of lost opportunities and income, of this access can linger on throughout the person's life.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple and easy to understand.

Feasibility:

Both UNICEF and UNESCO have done research on children, education, and armed conflict. Several data collection efforts thus exist that could be used as a basis for large scale routine data collection. This should and could be handled by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is critical for developing and evaluating policy in fragile and conflict affected settings. When data is produced it can be used to directly track progress.

Suggested indicator: Number of children in detention per 100,000 population

Relevance:

Detaining children potentially robs them of the opportunity to get an education and can inhibit their mental development. Detention of children can also be directly physically detrimental to the child. In short, detaining children is inherently abusive. As such, states should go to extreme lengths to avoid detaining children.

Simplicity:

The indicator is a simple structural indicator that is easily construed and communicated.

Feasibility:

Developed as well as many developing countries keep detailed track of the people they detain. As such, collecting data on children in detention is eminently feasible and should be handled by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is directly useful to both develop and evaluate policy.

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Global indicators:

- 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
- 16.3.2: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Proportion of people that believe, in their country, that people are treated unequally under the law

Relevance:

This indicator is a perception-based indicator based on a survey of a sample of the population. It provides an important balance to indicators based on administrative data. The proposed indicator brings the ‘voice of the people’ squarely in line with 16.3 and its focus on equal treatment under the law and the absence of discrimination as well as fairness and equitable outcomes in the delivery of justice services. It speaks directly to principle 3 of the Warsaw Declaration, referring to the right to equal protection of the law.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple to construct and easy to communicate.

Feasibility:

The indicator is already regularly collected by Afrobarometer in a large number of African countries, and similar data has been or is collected by the World Values Survey. Data exists for multiple rounds. As such, detailed and developed methodologies exist that could be used by NSOs to collect this indicator in their respective countries. This indicator can be included as a question in a survey conducted by the NSO or by civil society.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can inform policy in two ways: it provides important information on citizens’ perception of discrimination whether actually experienced or perceived. However, without additional survey questions it will not be possible to understand the nature of the discrimination i.e. whether there is discrimination based on socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation, or gender identity or in which areas of societal life discrimination is perceived to exist i.e. access to public services; employment, court proceedings, and the justice system etc.

Suggested indicator: Percentage of people who experienced a dispute and had access to a formal or informal dispute mechanism, and feel it was just

Relevance:

The indicator speaks directly to principles in the Warsaw Declaration, especially principles 2, 11 and 12. Moreover, it provides an important supplement to administrative data on access to justice by directly measuring people’s perceptions of/and experience with dispute resolutions mechanisms.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple and easily interpretable. It does not suffer from time lag, reporting and recall issues.

Feasibility:

The indicator is not routinely collected, but could be collected as part of regular surveys. The Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network has mapped available data on this issue.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is an important supplement to administrative data. Using the data, policy-makers will be able to track progress in this area.

Suggested indicator: Percentage of criminal cases in which the defendant does not have legal representation or other

Relevance:

Access to legal representation is critical to people facing criminal charges. A large body of research has shown that such representation is needed to ensure justice. The indicator thus speaks directly to a neglected part of SDG 16.3.

Simplicity:

This is a simple and easy to interpret indicator.

Feasibility:

Many countries already collect this indicator as part of their regular administrative data. Established methodologies thus exist, and the indicator could be collected by most NSOs without substantively adding to their reporting burden.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is a necessary supplement to perceptions-based data for both developing and evaluating policy.

Suggested indicator: The accessibility, affordability, impartiality, and effectiveness of civil justice systems

Relevance:

The index speaks directly to several of the principles of the Warsaw Declaration, including principles 2, 11 and 12, and as such is a useful indicator. The indicator, technically and index, measures aspects of SDG 16.3 that can only be measured by multi-dimensional experts-based methods. As such, it is an important complement to the supplemental and global indicators.

Simplicity:

The indicator is not especially simple. In this case it is necessary to use such an index to measure the underlying concept in SDG 16.3 more fully.

Feasibility:

The World Justice Project has a developed and tested methodology for collecting this index. The methodology could be used by NSOs, tailored to their country-specific needs and constraints, to allow collecting this data at the national level.

Policy actionable:

The index is not directly policy actionable, but analysis of the sub-indices can provide important information for informing policy reform and remedial action. It is necessary for a full and comprehensive evaluation of a justice system. As such, it speaks naturally to long-term policy planning.

Suggested indicator: To what extent [always, usually, about half the time, seldom, or never] is the high / low court independent to make their own decisions when they rule in cases that are salient to the government

Relevance:

The indicator speaks to core aspects of the rule of law. Without an independent court system, rule of law cannot exist. The indicator also speaks directly to several of the principles in the Warsaw Declaration, including principles 12 and 13.

Simplicity:

By its very nature, this indicator can only be collected through expert surveys. As such it is reasonably simple and easy to communicate.

Feasibility:

Regular and systematic data collection of this indicator is already carried out by V-Dem (v2juhcind). A detailed and established methodology exists. The methodology used by V-Dem could be further developed by NSOs and tailored to their specific needs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to both develop and evaluate policies aimed at improving the independence of the court system.

Suggested indicator: The extent to which public officials are rigorous and impartial in the performance of their duties

Relevance:

Impartiality is at the heart of inclusive and just governance, and also part of the Warsaw Declaration, principles 2 and 3. Neither can be realized without impartial state institutions. The indicator covers an important gap in the existing agenda, and as such is an important complement to it.

Simplicity:

By its very nature, this indicator can only be collected through expert surveys. As such it is reasonably simple and easy to communicate.

Feasibility:

Regular and systematic data collection of this indicator is already carried out by V-Dem (v2juhcind). A detailed and established methodology exists. The methodology used by V-Dem could be further developed by NSOs and altered to their specific needs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to both develop and evaluate policies aimed at improving in particular the independence of state governing institutions.

Target 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.

Global indicators:

16.4.1: Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

16.4.2: Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Proportion of stolen assets that are recovered and returned among all stolen assets

Relevance:

Tracking stolen assets is necessary to fully capture SDG 16.4. The indicator speaks directly to a neglected part of 16.4. The indicator also speaks to larger issues connected to this target, including issues related to organized crime.

Simplicity:

The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Presently no routine and regular collection of this indicator occurs. There is no data on the recovery of money/assets, but there are indicators that measure the flow of money. The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), partnership between UNODC and the World Bank, collects data on relevant related issues. These methodologies could be amended for this purpose.

Policy actionable:

The indicator can be used to develop and evaluate policy. It does not create perverse incentives.

Suggested indicator: Number of homicides due to organized crime

Relevance:

The indicator speaks to both this target as well as 16.1 on violence. Homicides due to organized crime can be different in fundamental ways from homicides in general. Tracking is critical to understand the level and intensity of organized crime in a society, as well as to get a fuller understanding of the amount violence a society is subject to.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple to construct and easy to communicate.

Feasibility:

Several countries already collect this data as part of their routine work on crime statistics. The UNODC also use such data (Homicide related to organized criminal groups or gangs). Established methodologies thus exist that could be tailored by individual NSOs for their purposes.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is critical for policy planning aimed at preventing homicides and dealing with organized crime.

Suggested indicator: Countries that regulate and make publicly available the declaration of beneficial ownership

Relevance:

Beneficial ownership, the practice by which someone enjoys the benefit of owning an asset without legally owning the asset, can have deleterious effect for the rule of law, and especially for peoples' sense of justice, if and when it is used to conceal and hide assets. As such, properly regulating beneficial ownership is necessary to achieve just societies.

Simplicity:

The indicator is easy to construct and communicate.

Feasibility:

Few countries presently produce this data, but established methodologies for collecting it have been developed by, for instance, Transparency International. The data can be collected by NSOs based on routine administrative sources.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not subject to perverse incentives, and will respond directly to policy interventions.

Suggested indicator: Arms Trade Transparency scores

Relevance:

Transparency in the international trade of arms is necessary to develop policies aimed at reducing illicit arms flows. In this, such transparency also has implications for 16.1 on armed conflict and armed violence. The proposed indicator measures the extent to which countries are transparent on this issue directly, for preventing diversion of arms into illicit markets.

Simplicity:

The indicator is easily constructed and communicated.

Feasibility:

The Small Arms Survey has developed a methodology for collecting this data, and they regularly collect the indicator on major exporters. We propose to expand the use of this data to all countries as a complement to global and supplemental indicators. NSOs could make use of the methodology to collect and report this data on their own.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not subject to perverse incentives and will respond directly to policy interventions.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Global indicators:

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 those public officials, during the previous 12 months.

16.5.2: Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months.

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Proportion of people who believe corruption is widespread in their country

Relevance:

Both actual and perceived levels of corruption shape people's perceptions of the level of corruption in society. We propose a corruption perception indicator as a useful supplement to the administratively based corruption measures in the global indicators.

Simplicity:

This is a simple and easily communicated indicator.

Feasibility:

A number of regular data collection efforts exist that collect this or comparable indicators. Both Transparency International and Afrobarometer, for instance, have established methodologies for collecting this data that could readily be adapted by NSOs and used to produce data at the national level.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy intervention and can be used both to develop and evaluate policy.

Suggested indicator: Extent of corruption in the country

Relevance:

Some aspects of corruption are hard to uncover by use of administrative data and perception surveys. To this end, expert-based surveys represent a useful supplement. We propose using Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index to supplement the perception measure proposed above.

Simplicity:

The corruption perception index produces a simple score that is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

TI has a long-established methodology for collecting this data. NSOs can adapt this methodology to their own circumstances to ensure national ownership and relevance.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy intervention, but the effect is likely to be indirect and mediated by other factors.

Suggested indicator: To what extent do multinational companies have transparency and accountability standards?

Relevance:

The proposed indicators for the most part focus on peoples' and experts' experience with corrupt practices. We propose a supplemental indicator that also considers one potential type of corrupter in the private sector.

Simplicity:

This is a simple and easily communicated indicator.

Feasibility:

No regular data collection efforts exist for this indicator, but the indicator is easily constructed from corporate data. Transparency International has methodologies that could be amended for the specific purposes of this indicator.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy intervention and be used both to develop and evaluate policies.

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Global indicators:

16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

16.6.2: Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Degree of civilian and parliamentary oversight of security institutions and budgets

Relevance:

The behaviour of formal state institutions, including the military, is an essential determinant of the degree of success or failure of developmental and democratic processes. The military has overturned or compromised democratic rule in many developing countries. It often continues to control significant financial resources and productive assets during political transitions, enabling it to exercise power independently of civilian authorities. Civilian and parliamentary oversight of security institutions and budgets is fundamental to democratic governance, yet remains poorly covered in the existing global indicator framework.

Simplicity:

The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

A large body of academic research exists which attempts to measure such oversight. Regular data collection is currently carried out by V-Dem ((v2lgotovst).

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies.

Suggested indicator: To what extent are the legislature and government agencies (e.g. Controller General, General Prosecutor, or Ombudsman) capable of questioning, investigating, and exercising oversight over the Executive?

Relevance:

The indicator speaks to several Warsaw Declaration principles on accountable government, including principles 12, 16 and 18. Moreover, effective executive constraints and checks and balances between institutions are widely found in the academic literature to be critical to democratic governance and, perhaps especially, for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As such it goes to the heart of SDG 16.

Simplicity:

The proposed indicator is easily constructed and communicated.

Feasibility:

As far as we know, no NSOs presently collect this indicator. However, V-Dem (v2xlg legcon) has developed a methodology for producing the data, and is currently regularly collecting the indicator. NSOs could adapt this methodology to their specific contexts and constraints.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies.

Suggested indicator: To what extent are elections free and fair?

Relevance:

Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of democratic governance, and are enshrined in the first principle of the Warsaw Declaration. Free and fair elections are fundamental to any meaningfully inclusive, accountable and just society.

Simplicity:

The indicator can be constructed as a simple scale that is easy to understand and communicate.

Feasibility:

The de-facto extent to which an election is free and fair can only be ascertained by expert judgement. There are multiple academic data collection efforts with established methodologies who do this. We propose that NSOs adapt the methodology developed by V-Dem (v2elfrfair) for these purposes.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policy.

Suggested indicator: Are elections monitored by independent and / or international election monitors

Relevance:

Election monitoring is a crucial mechanism by which civil society can ascertain the extent to which elections are free and fair. As such, the principle is included in the first principle of the Warsaw Declaration.

Simplicity:

This is a simple binary indicator that is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Several international organizations, such as International IDEA, already collect this data. Data collection can easily be done by NSOs as part of their regular administrative data production without adding substantively to the reporting burden.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policy.

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Global indicators:

16.7.1: Proportions of positions (by sex, age, 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 population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Election turnout as a share of voting-age population in national elections

Relevance:

Turning out for an election and voting is a fundamental part of people's civic responsibility. Election turnout by itself is a poor measure of democratic performance and inclusive government, but as a supplement to the many other indicators of democratic governance proposed here and in the global indicator set, it plays an important role.

Simplicity:

This is simple indicator that people are already well used to and relate to.

Feasibility:

Election turnout is already routinely produced by NSOs or other competent government authorities.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies.

Suggested indicator: Are major civil society organizations (CSOs) routinely consulted by policymakers

Relevance:

Active civil society participation is important for inclusive and just societies. The Community of Democracies puts special emphasis on the importance of civil society for democratic governance including principles 9 and 16. The indicator proposed here measures the extent to which civil society has an actual voice in important decision-making processes. We focus on major organizations for issues of feasibility.

Simplicity:

This is a simple binary indicator that is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Many governments already mandate CSO participation in such processes, for these, collecting data will be fairly easy. In addition, groups such as V-Dem are collecting indicators that speak to parts of this indicator (v2x cspart). This methodology could be augmented by NSOs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies

Target 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Global indicator:

16.8.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Supplemental indicator:

Suggested indicator: Number of NGOs in developing countries that hold consultative status with UN ECOSOC

Relevance:

The proposed indicator ensures that we measure not just the participation of developing countries' governments in institutions of global governance, but also civil society in those countries. This is important for ensuring the "leave no one behind" principle. The focus on civil society also speaks to core values of the Community of Democracies.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that, in theory, can easily be counted. The indicators are easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Collecting the data can be done using UN ECOSOC records. Data could be collected by NSOs without adding much to their reporting burden.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies.

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Global indicator:

16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Proportion of the population with a national identity document

Relevance:

National identity documents are necessary for people to be able to fully participate in their country's governance, as such it is fundamental to an inclusive government.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Many if not most countries already collect this data as part of their standard record keeping. Such methods could be augmented to more directly track this indicator at the national level.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policies.

Suggested indicator: Proportion of people over 5 years of age who do not have a birth certificate but received a legal identity

Relevance:

The indicator speaks to the fact that some people may not have a birth certificate even though they have a legal identity. The right to a birth certificate is a fundamental issue of human rights, as such it is covered by the Warsaw Declaration and enshrined in, for instance, Human Rights Council resolutions.

Simplicity:

This is a simple structural variable that can easily be counted. The indicator is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

Many countries already collect this data, albeit often indirectly, as part of their standard record keeping. Such methods could be augmented to more directly track this indicator at the national level.

Policy actionable:

The indicator is not likely to create perverse incentives, it will react to policy interventions, and can be used to develop and evaluate policy.

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

Global indicators:

- 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
- 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Proportion of people that report they are free to say what they think

Relevance:

This speaks directly to Warsaw Declaration principles on freedom of expression and freedom of opinion (principles 4 and 5). They are fundamental freedoms without which democratic governance is impossible. It is absolutely necessary to include peoples' perceptions of the degree to which they feel they have freedom of expression. The proposed indicator as such, fills an important gap in the global indicator set.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple to understand and communicate.

Feasibility:

The indicator can be collected using standard survey methodologies. NSOs can add specific questions to routine surveys they are already carrying out. Moreover, multiple academic entities and NGOs already collect this data, and their methods could be further developed to fit national level needs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy interventions and can be used for both developing and evaluating policies.

Suggested indicator: Proportion of the people that report feeling free to join civil society organizations

Relevance:

As with freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom to join civil society organizations is vital for democratic and inclusive governance. A vibrant civil society is a cornerstone of democracy, but civil society cannot perform this function without people being free to join. The proposed indicator speaks directly to a number of principles in the Warsaw Declaration on fundamental freedoms and civil society including principles 4, 5 and 9.

Simplicity:

The indicator is simple to understand and communicate.

Feasibility:

As above, the indicator can be collected using standard survey methodologies. NSOs can add specific questions to routine surveys they are already carrying out.

Moreover, multiple academic entities and NGOs already collect this data, and their methods could be further developed to fit national level needs.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy interventions and can be used for both developing and evaluating policy.

Suggested indicator: To what extent does the government respect press and media freedom, the freedom of ordinary people to discuss political matters at home and in the public sphere, as well as the freedom of academic and cultural expression?

Relevance:

Expert-based evaluations are an important and a useful supplement to administrative data and perception surveys, especially when it comes to evaluating harder to observe concepts such as the extent to which government respects a free press. The proposed index draws on several of the Warsaw Declaration principles on the freedom of the press and freedom of expression (principles 5 and 7).

Simplicity:

The index can be reported as a simple to understand scale that is easy to communicate.

Feasibility:

The V-Dem project has an established methodology for collecting this index, and regularly produces data on it (v2x freexp). NSOs should adapt this methodology to their own needs and specific context.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy interventions and can be used for both developing and evaluating policies.

Target 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

Global indicator:

- 16.A.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Supplemental indicators:

Suggested indicator: Percentage of requests for international legal cooperation (law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extraditions) made through existing conventions that were met during the reporting year

Relevance:

The indicator signifies the capacity of a state to afford mutual legal assistance and extraditions in relation to the requests submitted by other states.

Feasibility:

A universal coverage of the indicator is considered feasible, taking into account that most countries have concluded a large number of bilateral and/or multilateral mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements. They also have designated institutional focal points, for incoming and outgoing requests for mutual legal assistance and extraditions.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy interventions and can be used for both developing and evaluating policy.

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

Global indicators:

16.B.1 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

Supplemental indicator:

Suggested indicator: The Constitution, or other basic law, has a clause that prohibits discrimination as a fundamental human right

Relevance:

Non-discrimination is a central part of the Warsaw Declaration principles, including principles 3 and 19, and goes to the heart of just governance and peoples' right to fundamental freedoms. Inclusive and just societies should have legislation in place that prohibits discrimination as a fundamental human right.

Simplicity:

This is a simple binary indicator that is easily understood and communicated.

Feasibility:

No databases currently exist that codify this information, but given that it is easily extracted from a countries' legislation, it is highly feasible to develop, produce, and maintain data for the proposed indicator.

Policy actionable:

The indicator will respond to policy interventions and can be used for both developing and evaluating policies.



Community of Democracies

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