



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

2nd National Consultation on Monitoring Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 in South Africa

Consultation Report

**Johannesburg, South Africa
19 July 2017**

1. Introduction

On 19 July, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with technical support from the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), hosted a second national consultation on monitoring implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in South Africa. The second consultation was a follow-up to the first consultation, which had taken place in June and brought together experts from civil society to discuss the proposed national level indicators for Goal 16 and to consider ways to strengthen the involvement of communities in monitoring Targets on a local level. A key outcome of the 1st consultation was consensus around the utility of a tool that could be to sensitise communities to the SDGs and capacitate them with knowledge and skills to actively participate in the monitoring of Goal 16 Targets in their communities.

Since then, UNDP has been working closely with APCOF, to develop a Civil Society Accessibility Toolkit (CSO Tool) to empower communities to participate in implementation and monitoring activities for Goal 16 Targets in their community. Accordingly, the primary purpose of the 2nd consultation was to provide participants with an opportunity to actively engage on the Zero Draft of CSO Tool, and offer comments and feedback for how to improve the structure and contents of the Tool, as well as its look at feel.

Representatives from the following entities and organisations attended the 2nd consultation: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Information Centre (UNIC); African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF); Orange Farm Community Advice Centre; Save the Children International; Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP); Africa Monitor; National Alliance of Non Governmental Organisations in South Africa (NANGOSA); Statistics South Africa (Stats SA); Informed Solutions to Economic Crime in

Africa (ISECA); University of Pretoria- Sustainable Development Hub; National Alliance for the Development of Community Advice Offices (NADCAO); Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA); Step Up Association; South African Medical Research Council (MRC); Probono.org; South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC); the South African History Archive (SAHA); and the Community Law Rural Development Centre (CLRDC).

An attendance list is attached as **Annexure 1**.

2. Presentations

Mr Bongani Matomela, Governance Programme Manager at UNDP, welcomed participants and provided an overview of the second consultation's objectives, which included: an update from Ms. Aluwani Makuya of Statistics South Africa on developments that have been made to the national level indicator framework since the June consultation; a presentation from Mr. Ayodele Odusele, UNDP Africa's Chief Economist and Head of Strategy and Analysis, on regional perspectives on domestication of SDG indicators; and an introduction of the Zero Draft Civil Society Accessibility Toolkit on Goal 16 from Kelly Stone of APCOF.

a) Statistics South Africa

Ms. Aluwani Makuya, Head of the Sectoral Working Group (SWG) for Goal 16 at Statistics South Africa, presented a brief update on developments that have been made regarding domestication of Goal 16 indicators in South Africa. She began by thanking participants for their thoughtful deliberations during the June consultation, and to the experts for sending her one-page briefs detailing their suggestions for how to improve the national level indicator framework. Ms. Makuya explained that some of the proposed indicators have already been incorporated into the revised framework and report, and that Stats SA intends to incorporate more of the indicators that were suggested in future reports.

In terms of time frames, Ms. Makuya explained that the meeting with the National Coordinating Committee had been pushed back to end of July, but that the proposed indicators coming out of the June consultation will be presented to members, who will be given the opportunity to deliberate on whether or not to include them. In addition, the SWG for Goal 16 will begin going through all of the proposed national level indicators ahead of the meeting at the High Level Political Forum at the UN in New York in September 2017. Aluwani explained that Stats SA has managed to domesticate five (5) of the eleven (11) Targets for Goal 16 (roughly 56%), and that teams are actively trying to get more data – specifically in relation to Target 16.5 (corruption) - so South Africa will eventually have enough information to domesticate all 11 Targets.

b) United Nations Development Programme

In an effort to link national implementation of Goal 16 Targets to regional and international processes, Mr. Ayodele Odusele, UNDP Africa's Chief Economist and Head of Strategy and Analysis, gave a presentation on regional perspectives on domestication of SDG indicators.

Mr. Odusele began his presentation by acknowledging the unique relationship that government has with civil society in South Africa, and that selecting this country for UNDP's pilot was done with a specific purpose in mind. He explained that the SDGs are bigger than the MDGs, and that Agenda 2030 is not intended to be a development agenda of governments, but of all people. Making the SDGs a 'people's document' requires the Goals to be broken down and presented in a language that everyone can understand; this is why the role of civil society is so important, and why regional and sub-regional dialogues are so important, because they ensure that everyone is connected to the same purpose. In this regard, the work being done in South Africa – specifically the working relationship between Statistics South Africa and civil society - will set the pace for how to advance development across the rest of the region.

After explaining the important role of civil society in translating the SDGs into a 'people's document', Ayodele then went on to explain the significance of Goal 16 in the global development agenda. He referred to Goal 16 as the 'multiplier' SDG – meaning that, in the absence of good governance, it will be nearly impossible to make progress towards sustainable development; on the other hand, institutionalising mechanisms of good governance and building strong institutions, will strengthen the possibility of all other SDGs being achieved.

In terms of regional perspectives, Mr. Odusele pointed to Ethiopia and Rwanda as important examples when trying to understand development in the region, specifically the relationship between good governance and sustainable development. Like many other African countries, Ethiopia and Rwanda are resource rich nations, but the fundamental difference between them and other African countries is that they have been able to establish mechanisms of good governance. Accordingly, there are positive developments happening in Africa, therefore, we need to come together as a region and learn from other countries.

In terms of operationalizing SDGs at the national and community levels, Mr. Odusele referred to a tool developed by the UNDP called 'MAPS', which stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support. Mainstreaming requires countries to integrate SDGs into the domestic sphere by incorporating the Goals and Targets into planning processes to ensure that national development aligns with global development. Accelerating progress towards the SDGs requires an identification and analysis of the 'bottlenecks' to sustainable development at the national level, and pointed to illicit financial flows under Target 16.4 as an important indicator for South Africa to consider. The last part of the MAPS tool refers to Policy Support, which requires the development and/or revision of national development plans and policies to align with the SDGs. Accordingly, Ayodele acknowledged the important work done by Statistics South Africa to align the SDGs within the National Development Plan framework, and stated that these efforts will help harmonise efforts to monitor the SDGs and other national development processes.

Mr. Odusele concluded his presentation by mentioning the Open Data Development Network as an important initiative to get involved in to ensure that South Africa understands to use alternative forms of data to complement official statistics.

c) African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum

Ms Kelly Stone introduced the draft Civil Society Accessibility Tool, and provided an overview of its purpose as well as its structure and contents. Stone explained that the Zero Draft CSO Tool involves an inclusive and participatory methodology that uses several experiential learning methods in an effort to actively engage trainees to not only understand, but also apply, Goal 16 Targets to developmental challenges in their communities. Although the Tool had been designed specifically for community advice offices, Stone explained that it can be adapted for use by any other organisation, institution or group, and adapted for any of the other 16 SDGs.

A copy of Ms. Stone's presentation is attached as **Annexure 2**.

3. Comments on the Zero Draft CSO Accessibility Tool

Following the presentations, participants were split into four groups and instructed to conduct an in-depth review the Zero Draft Tool by completing a Feedback sheet which was structured according to each learning session. The review was split into four (4) separate 45-minute sessions, which provided people with sufficient time to review each section of the tool, identify its strengths and weaknesses, and make suggestions for how to improve its utility and effectiveness within communities.

Initial reactions to the Zero Draft of the Tool were positive. Participants, especially representatives from community based organisations, felt that the Tool was useful in breaking down the technical language associated with measuring Goal 16 Targets and presenting the purpose of the SDGs in terms that were relevant to community members, specifically by linking it to the realisation of constitutional rights, and to developmental challenges in their communities. In addition, participants felt that the structure and content of the training course made sense – that there was a logical flow between each learning session, and that each exercise built upon the objectives of the previous one, moving from the acquisition of general knowledge of Goal 16 towards the development of practical skills for data collection and analysis. Generally speaking, participants felt that the Tool would be useful for communities, and was worth introducing at the local levels.

Participants, however, did express concern over the language that was used in the Tool – specifically in relation to tone, and thought that it was too text-heavy and technical. In this regard, people felt that simplifying the language, reducing the length of instructions, and replacing with graphic images would be more effective in communicating directions to trainers. Participants also felt that some of the sections were repetitive and unnecessary – specifically: summary of sessions/objectives/outcomes, important tips for trainers, etc. – and that the timing for the training was too tight, suggesting that it be extended to two days rather than one. Additionally, participants felt that the tool needed to be incorporated into reporting or planning processes, such as the Integrated Development Plans (IDP) and linked to the National Development Plan (NDP), and that trainees should be given practical

guidance on how to take Goal 16 back to their communities, (i.e. through participation in Ward Committee Meetings, Community Policing Forums, Community Safety Forums, etc.).

Kelly Stone of APCOF expressed her gratitude for input on the Tool, and told participants that it would be revised according to their comments and feedback.

4. Launch Event

The last session of the consultation was devoted to a discussion of the Launch Event, which is scheduled to take place at Orange Farm Community Advice Office on 29 August 2017 from 10h00 – 14h00. Participants suggested broadening the scope of the launch to ‘Taking Goal 16 to Communities’ and introducing the CSO Tool as a pilot project, rather than a countrywide initiative, to ensure the Tool is effective and achieves its intended purpose with community members. Conceptualisation of the Pilot for the CSO Accessibility Tool will be further unpacked in the proposal for Second Phase of the project.

5. Closure

Mr Bongani Matomela of UNDP thanked participants for taking the time to participate in the consultation and providing constructive feedback for ways to revise the Zero Draft CSO Accessibility Tool. Mr. Matomela informed participants that UNDP and APCOF would continue to keep them informed of logistics regarding the Launch Event and any updates regarding piloting of the Tool.