**TRANS-ALTAI SUSTAINABILITY DIALOGUE**

**SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

*Ikh Mongol Hall, State Palace*

15:30-15:40, Thursday, 25 April 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Guests,

This is a great opportunity to welcome you in Ulaanbaatar and share ideas and practices to advance the SDG 16.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 is one of the pillar goals to maintain peaceful, inclusive, and just societies in countries. As it is noted in the SDG, peace is a fundamental precondition for social and economic development. Without peace, societies are often plagued by conflict, violence, and instability, which can hinder progress and result in the loss of lives and resources. To achieve the goal, collaborative effort is critical as peace and justice does not exist without joint commitment and coordination. In this regard, roles of governments, global and regional organizations are matters for advancing peacebuilding, development, security, conflict resolution, conflict prevention, good governance and strengthening democracy.

A way to mobilize this collaboration, coordination mechanism must be established and promoted through exchanges of best practices and successful experiences among governments, global and regional organizations, civil society and grassroots organizations. For example, one of the good practices we have been implementing in education sector is the stakeholder consultation mechanism that has a role to coordinate different organizations for achieving SDG 4 goals and contribute the implementation of actions. The similar mechanism is critical for SDG 16 advancement.

Regarding the roles of global and regional organizations, I would like to take examples of specific organizations such as development and donor organizations, civil society and private sectors.

**First**, international, and regional development and donor organizations have a great role for facilitating global effort to achieve the goal 16 and building the capacity of all level institutions to develop inclusive and transparent legal framework and policies withdrawing good practices from other countries. Global frameworks, that the international and regional development organizations apply, on human rights, violence against children and women and freedom of speech can be guides for enforcing the implementation of this goal. It means that these organizations need to have a role to promote rules of these laws and policies and build the capacity how to translate these rules in national context. Regional organizations are to be kept informed of and involved in national implementation and monitoring efforts; likewise, global and regional organizations should exchange regional experiences. Sub-regional approaches can promote positive competition.

**Second**, the civil society plays a key role in offering important capacities and knowledge to collectively accelerate and increase efforts and targets to address structural inequalities; gendered, racial and other forms of discrimination; and violence; and recognized forms of exclusion and marginalization. For example, some of civil society organizations in Mongolia has well-established roles to monitor how children and youth, in particular vulnerable group basic rights are ensured in education sector and openly express their voice to bring changes in practice. In amendment of Education Package Law passed the Parliament in July 2023, we stated civil society engagement in education governance and accountability mechanism.

 More efforts are needed to protect the few platforms that enable citizens to present their points of view to influence decisionmakers and drive efforts to create more inclusive policies and stronger institutions.

**Third**, the overall perception of private organizations engaging in the development field through partnerships and collaboration in the field to investment setting transparent expectations from the investment they do.

However, to mobilize the coordination more effectively, four main factors need to be considered[[1]](#footnote-1):

1. clearly define the goals and procedures to achieve them,
2. mobilize support and resources through coalition, social movement, and compelling motives to achieve the goals, such as rewards, honour, moral obligation, sense of solidarity, and social norms,
3. ensure policy coherence among actors, and
4. constantly track progress.

Eventually, global and regional organizations need to have four main types of roles, namely the translating, supporting, coordinating and monitoring the SDG 16.

Leading the formulation of a clear global vision along with its targets and indicators and translating these visions to institutional/local setting of individual actors constitute the translating role. Global goals need to be further translated into context-specific goals to ensure their operationability in regional and national contexts, as well as to build a sense of awareness and belonging to the goals.

Moreover, socializing these goals, mobilizing support and implementing goals requires a supporting role. global, regional, and national organizations need to consult in mobilizing financial, technical, and institutional supports. Regional organizations can play an important role as to perform different functions including providing capacity for the achievement of rules or goals. This function is of importance in relation to the supporting role. Regional organizations bring operational capacity by carrying out concrete activities in the field for which countries lack technical or financial capacity.

Coordinating policies among all levels of institutions makes up the coordinating role. Coordination allows regional organizations to foster policy coherence and diffuse policy practices.

Regional organizations can play a monitoring and progress reporting role. The importance of monitoring is further developed.

At the end, I would like to note again that roles of these organisations are critical; and we need joint commitment to advance the SDGs.

1. [Democracy and Peacebuilding in the Framework of SDG 16+ (idea.int)](https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/democracy-and-peacebuilding-in-the-framework-of-sdg-16-policy-recommendations.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)