

TAP Network & #SDG16Now Campaign Response to Revised First Draft of FfD4 Outcome Document

The following priorities reflect the recommendations and suggestions from members of the #SDG16Now Campaign and the [Transparency, Accountability & Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) – a coalition of over 400 civil society organizations in over 50 countries working to ensure that the 2030 Agenda fosters open, inclusive, transparent, accountable, and participatory follow-up and review at all levels of decision-making.

In addition to the priorities contained herein, the TAP Network calls for the highest standards of transparency and inclusivity throughout the negotiation process, extending to [inclusion of civil society actors](#) both in consultation and presence in the negotiating room. We align these priorities and recommendations with that of the [Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism](#) which represents the collective positions of civil society experts working on FfD issues.

Building upon the [TAP Network's FfD4 Position Paper](#), the recommendations have been streamlined across four key priorities:

- [1. Integrate and increase SDG16+ language related to transparency, accountability, institutions, peace, justice, human rights, and fundamental freedom](#)**
 - Retain and strengthen a standalone paragraph Related to SDG16+ and Financing
 - Increase references to funding and financing to advance the principles of SDG16+
- [2. Increase specific references to funding and financing to advance the principles and objectives of SDG16+](#)**
 - Clarifying the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus
 - Introduce new language on people-centered justice and for SDG16+ broadly
- [3. Strengthen language related to development aid effectiveness, ODA obligations, and international development cooperation, underpinned by the principles of transparency and accountability while increasing risk tolerance](#)**
 - Strengthening Trust, Taxation, and Combating Illicit Financial Flows
 - Supporting Media & Civil Society in Transparency & Accountability
 - Safeguards for human rights, transparency, accountability, and oversight in financing
 - Removing references to TOSSD and committing to reducing military expenditure
- [4. Call for the democratization of global economic governance with inclusive participation at all levels.](#)**
 - Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the IFIs

1) Integrate and increase SDG16+ language related to transparency, accountability, institutions, peace, human rights, and fundamental freedoms

Retain and strengthen a standalone paragraph Related to SDG16+ and Financing

Paragraph 12: We reaffirm that the effective, efficient and transparent mobilization and use of resources must be enabled by fundamental freedoms, human rights, including the right to development, ~~and national sovereignty~~. Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies is integral to creating an enabling environment for sustainable development. We commit to developing effective, accountable, transparent and inclusive governance systems and democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels and ensuring responsive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Suggested Changes & Rationale:

- **Re-affirm the International Community's Commitment to Peace and Human Rights:** Paragraphs 12 and 13 appropriately outline and re-affirm the international community's commitment to the principles of peace and human rights, as well as the role of accountable, effective, and inclusive institutions in fostering more participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. These paragraphs also acknowledge the impacts of corruption and illicit financial flows as a key obstacle around financing for development. This language overall re-affirms existing commitments by Member States and the international community towards SDG16 targets 16.1, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7 and 16.10, and therefore should be retained and strengthened in this paragraph, or within other paragraphs throughout the draft.
- **Clarify Terminology Around Freedom:** Current reference to "freedom" in paragraph 12 lacks adequate precedent in UN resolutions and is therefore difficult to define. Instead, we call for the broadening of language around human rights to instead include a reference to "fundamental freedoms", which have previously been defined and enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and includes a plethora of existing commitments by Member States and the international community.

Increase specific references to funding and financing to advance the principles and objectives of SDG16+

Paragraph 13: We will foster transparency, accountability, access to justice, rule of law, good governance and sound policies at all levels...We will support independent, free, and pluralistic media and information systems to enhance transparency, accountability, access to data, and information literacy, reaffirming commitments outlined in the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact. ~~We will support independent, free, and pluralistic media and information systems to enhance transparency, accountability, access to data, and information literacy, reaffirming commitments outlined in the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.~~

Suggested Changes & Rationale:

- **Enhance Attention to People-Centered Justice:** Include and recognize people-centered justice in paragraph 13 as a reaffirmation of target 16.3, acknowledging the critical role that access to justice plays in building and fostering trust between governments and citizens, particularly from marginalized identities and communities, such as women, minorities, indigenous groups, and beyond. This should also include a call for additional financing to support justice systems at all levels, which are woefully underfunded and under-supported.
- **Defining Justice Broadly:** Not only is justice a fundamental pillar of development at the national and subnational level, but a lack of references to justice overall in this text - including relevant justice-related outcomes at the global and international level such as tax justice, debt justice, social justice, climate justice and many others - can be seen as a way for Member States to shirk overall accountability to their commitments in this outcome document.

2) Increase specific references to funding and financing to advance the principles and objectives of SDG16+

Clarifying Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Paragraph 32d: “We will enhance cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to build the resilience of affected communities...and will scale up financing for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. **We will also ensure robust funding for peacebuilding and conflict prevention outside of just the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, as well as work to integrate peacebuilding and conflict prevention into all sectors of ODA to maximize the efficiency of development assistance.**”

Suggested Changes & Rationale:

- While we welcome the draft’s language on the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus in Paragraph 32d, the HDP nexus cannot be a replacement for funding each of these pillars fully and separately, particularly peacebuilding. Peacebuilding is woefully underfunded compared to the humanitarian and development sectors. As global levels of violence, conflict, and fragility continue to break records year over year, the international community must urgently commit to robust investments in peacebuilding and conflict prevention . The HDP nexus is necessary for bringing these elements together for greater alignment, but to truly address the complex drivers of instability in developing contexts, it is essential that peacebuilding conflict prevention is significantly more funded and integrated across all forms and sectors of ODA.

Introducing New Language on People-Centered Justice

NEW PARA 32f: **We encourage Member States, in accordance with their domestic legislation and**

within their capacity, to ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all. This includes supporting people-centered justice efforts by ensuring adequate financing to help countries build sustainable and resilient justice systems to meet the needs of the over one billion people globally with unmet justice needs.

Suggested Changes & Rationale:

- In addition to suggestions related to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and other SDG16+ themes, we call for new language to be included around the importance of financing for people-centered justice and for SDG16+ more broadly.
- Member States must recognize that investments in improving access to justice in a people-centered manner yields significant returns in improving people's lives and satisfaction with government services. Investments in legal aid and other front-line justice services also represent opportunities to deliver other SDG-related impacts within communities.

3) Strengthen language outlining the effectiveness of aid to enhance commitments and increase risk tolerance

Strengthening Trust, Taxation, and Combating Illicit Financial Flows

Paragraph 21: "...In a globalized and increasingly digitalized world, such domestic efforts must be complemented by international cooperation, including through enhanced, **progressive** international tax cooperation and robust measures to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and corruption, **including through the creation of a global asset register**. National development banks also have a crucial role in mobilizing investments for sustainable development. **Transparent budgeting and capacity development will strengthen trust between governments and the people who benefit from public goods and social services.**"

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- At present this paragraph fails to include references to the need to strengthen capacity for Global South countries (SDG 16.8) and the need for effective, transparent, and accountable institutions at all levels (SDG 16.6). Further, suggested changes reflect the role of transparent budgeting and capacity development in strengthening trust between governments and the people who benefit from public goods and social services.
- Should note that efforts to achieve financial transparency must not undermine work to provide more ODA to local organizations, as well as to decrease risk aversion in donors and financial institutions who are currently less willing to provide funding to these local organizations.
- Eliminating anonymity in the ownership of companies, legal arrangements and high-value assets ensures that the corrupt, tax evaders and other criminals cannot conceal their wealth and illicit assets.

Paragraph 22b: ~~“We will promote~~ **We commit to adopt a gender-responsive, whole-of-government approach to strengthen tax systems and ensure** budget transparency, accountability and efficiency, including by enhancing oversight, implementing transparent procurement systems, as well as strengthened, resourced, independent and professional supreme audit institutions and parliamentary oversight....”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- This language is a step-down from the language included in the zero draft. This paragraph should include references to the need for a whole-of-government approach that is not only gender-responsive, but also an approach designed with civil society inclusion in mind. The need for detailed information does not mean that ODA ultimately flows away from local organizations. This builds upon SDG 16 16.7, “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.
- Some proposed changes here are designed to reflect the complexity of transparency needs at various stages of public financial management, from resource allocation and budget planning to government expenditure, including public procurement, and ultimately at the point of delivery.

Supporting Media & Civil Society in Transparency & Accountability

Paragraph 24b: “We will support the role that the media and civil society play in exposing IFFs **and will support efforts to strengthen the capacity and institutional infrastructure of professional journalism organisations as well as civil society in carrying out this role**”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- We welcome this addition in the text that recognizes the critical role of civil society and media in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. This builds upon SDG 16.7, “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”.
- The expansion suggested here specifically identifies the needs to invest in both civil society, civil society organizations, and the media, and the respective institutional infrastructure to support their engagement in decision-making. Meeting these commitments must require an enabling environment for civil society organizations to mobilise citizens and actively monitor the allocation of budgets, public procurement and expenditure processes.

Safeguards for human rights, transparency, accountability, and oversight in engagement with private sector and private capital

Paragraph 28d: “We call for blended finance initiatives to...vi) include participation of local communities in decisions affecting them; and vii) take into account debt sustainability. **We note that all partnerships with private sector and private capital must include adequate safeguards for human rights, transparency, accountability, and oversight.**”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- Throughout the text, there are references to the rising reliance on private lenders (bondholders and commercial lenders). Without adequate safeguards for human rights, transparency, accountability, and oversight in these projects, civil society stakeholders and the general public risk being excluded from decision-making processes. This, in turn, jeopardises the inclusivity and equitability of the infrastructure, undermining its potential to serve the broader public interest.

Paragraph 31c: “We commit to increase the share of ODA programmed at the country level and focused on longterm sustainable development **and its core mandate of eradicating poverty and addressing inequalities.** ~~that responds to~~ ODA must respond to the needs and priorities of recipient countries, including by increasing the share of budget support in ODA...”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- We call on providers to raise their official development assistance (ODA) substantially, in order to address the worsening multiple crises, and to truly deliver on the commitment to leave no one behind. The richest economies must keep their existing promises to poorer countries and pay off the ‘aid debt’. There is compelling evidence that aid saves lives and reduces inequality, especially when given as long-term predictable budget support.
- Beyond this, governments should consider establishing a UN intergovernmental process towards agreeing a legally binding convention on development cooperation that protects the integrity and credibility of ODA, and enhances the impact of ODA in eradicating poverty and addressing inequalities, and ensures policy coherence

Removing Reference to TOSSD & Recognizing the negative impacts of military spending on development

Paragraph 33cii: “Monitors the delivery, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation in all its forms, drawing on all relevant existing reporting efforts, including country-owned reporting of data to SDG 17.3.1 as agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, ~~ODA reporting to the OECD, Total Official Support for Sustainable Development~~... To this end, we will work towards suitable measures of development impact of all types and modalities of development cooperation, building on ongoing efforts, including by MDBs, **and in the context of ensuring that military spending does not compromise investment in sustainable development and building sustainable peace** ”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- Herein we suggest eliminating the reference to TOSSD. Governments must ensure ODA definitions accurately reflect the scope of long-term development and as such, does not adopt a broader scope to include humanitarian, peace, development, military/security, and climate assistance under concepts like OECD’s Total Official Support for Sustainable Development

(TOSSD) framework. While funding for humanitarian efforts, peacebuilding, and climate change mitigation and adaptation is critical, these commitments must be made in addition to ODA.

- Further, in the Pact for the Future, Member States noted they are “concerned about the potential impact that the global increase in military expenditures could have on investments in sustainable development and sustaining peace.” As such, Member States made a commitment to, “Ensure that military spending does not compromise investment in sustainable development and building sustainable peace and request the Secretary-General to provide analysis on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of the seventy-ninth session.”

4) Call for the democratization of global economic governance with inclusive participation at all levels. This inclusion extends to both civil society, particularly locally-led civil society, and developing countries in decision-making processes.

Reforming and Democratizing the International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Paragraph 46a: “Recognizing and building on recent efforts, we commit to enhance the voice and representation of developing countries in norm-setting, global economic governance, and decision-making in international economic and financial institutions to deliver more effective, credible, accountable, and legitimate institutions.”

Paragraph 46h: “We commit to further enhance the transparency and accountability of decision making at international economic and financial institutions, **including by adjusting the size of financial institution boards, adequately redistributing voting rights, avoid de facto veto powers, strengthen basic votes premised on the principle of equality of member states, among others.**”

Suggested Changes & Rationale

- Welcome these additions, given SDG 16.8 target, “Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance”
- All governments must respect the four effective development cooperation (EDC) principles of **democratic ownership of development priorities, inclusive partnerships, results focus, and transparency and accountability**, in their delivery of aid. Countries must be given fiscal and policy space to respond to global crises while global institutions must reform in order to adapt to the changing realities of the world. **Global Institutions must democratize their decision-making processes** by addressing the power imbalance that is currently inherent in their formation.

Annex: Responses to the First Draft of FfD4 Outcome Document from individual TAP Network Members

- [Global Forum for Media Development \(GFMD\)](#)