

2024

REPORT

REBUILDING TRUST FOR INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

UNLOCKING **SDG 16**
FOR PEACEFUL SOCIETIES



The report reviews the state of implementation of SDG 16

It presents over **40 good practices**
and experiences from across the Forus
network to inspire efforts to establish
accountable institutions and peaceful
societies.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Advancing inclusive governance



PROMOTE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Develop legal frameworks and policies that facilitate citizen participation, particularly for marginalized groups, in decision-making processes at all levels of government.



EXAMPLE

The **Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF)** backs the Topowa Forum model of inclusive dialogue, by enhancing civic mentorship and promoting accountable governance, crucial for Uganda's democratic integrity and anti-corruption efforts.



INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen partnerships between government, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations to address governance challenges and achieve sustainable development.



EXAMPLE

The **Latvian NGO platform (LAPAS)** highlights how in Latvia a national joint council has been developed with equal representation from the government and CSOs, enabling local participation in decision-making. Another example involves local contracts between authorities and NGOs to promote transparency in infrastructure projects.



AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Remove legal obstacles, promote inclusive civic spaces - both online and offline - and support flexible funding mechanisms to support civil society globally.



EXAMPLE

The regional coalition in the Pacific **PIANGO** uses the Civic Space Monitor to track and address restrictions on civic freedoms, advocating for policies that protect freedom of expression, association, and assembly. **Abong** in Brazil advocates for political reform and community engagement, successfully campaigning against racial discrimination, negative narratives against CSOs and promoting local leadership in governance processes.



PROMOTE PARTICIPATION, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Encourage citizen participation in governance processes, particularly for historically marginalised groups, through initiatives like participatory budgeting and citizen advisory councils.



EXAMPLE

La Coordinadora in Spain has developed innovative feminist cooperation frameworks, promoting gender justice and equitable governance.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ LOCALISATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Support local communities and institutions by promoting decentralisation and capacity-sharing initiatives.



EXAMPLE

In Nepal, the **National Federation of NGOs (NFN)** has successfully advocated for inclusive public consultations in local governance, ensuring that voices from diverse communities, including women and indigenous peoples, are heard and integrated into policy-making.

✓ TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governments should adopt open data policies and establish robust freedom of information laws to promote transparency and citizen engagement.



EXAMPLE

NANGO in Zimbabwe launched the APECS initiative, building a comprehensive CSO database to improve transparency and profiling, and monitoring threats to advocate for a safer civic space.

✓ UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW & COMBAT CORRUPTION

Strengthen legal frameworks and ensure the independence of the judiciary to uphold the rule of law and protect human and civic rights.



EXAMPLE

In Tunisia, **the National Dialogue Quartet's** inclusive peacebuilding efforts have been recognized internationally, demonstrating the importance of a strong, independent judiciary in fostering just and peaceful societies.

✓ IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES AND BUILD EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

Invest in innovative public service delivery models and focus on capacity strengthening and continuous improvement of government institutions to ensure they are capable, well-resourced, and operate with integrity.



EXAMPLE

Cooperation Canada has leveraged open data initiatives to enhance transparency and facilitate evidence-based dialogue between governments and civil society, for public service delivery and accountability. **Red Encuentro** in Argentina plays a lead role to ensure that governance structures are responsive and effective to leave no one behind.

✓ DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

Use big data and analytics to inform policy decisions and improve service delivery, ensuring that policies are responsive to the needs of all citizens while respecting their privacy and digital rights.



EXAMPLE

The Democratic Republic of Korea's **Smart City initiatives** showcase how data-driven decision-making can lead to better resource allocation and more effective governance.

Rebuilding trust for inclusive governance

How do we rebuild trust? Discover our report and share your initiatives that demonstrate effective implementation of various elements of inclusive governance.

Share your experiences and examples

