

TAP Network Advocacy Guide: 2021 HLPF Review Negotiations

March 2021

Background

The annual United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. With the TAP Network’s collective priorities of SDG16 and accountability for the 2030 Agenda, TAP Network engages extensively around the HLPF and in the lead-up to the conference.

From now until the end of April 2021, the UN Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum are undergoing negotiations on the conference’s thematic reviews, which will largely determine the focus of what will get done at the HLPF this year and for years to come. So far in this process, the [2021 HLPF Zero Review Draft](#) was published on 12 February 2021, and subsequent revised drafts were published on [9 March](#) and [17 March](#).

In order to ensure that SDG16 is reviewed on an annual basis and that the priorities of TAP Network members are represented at the HLPF, TAP Network is currently undergoing advocacy processes to amplify our collective voices. [Please see the TAP Network’s most recent advocacy document](#), a blog post created with the Global SDG16+ Community titled “Putting SDG16 Front and Center at Future HLPFs” for our latest inputs to the subsequent HLPF Review Drafts. As of now, language regarding the annual review of SDG16 has been included in the revised drafts. However, the recent addition remains highly vulnerable to removal by Member States in negotiations and therefore requires the recruitment of additional voices to amplify the importance of sustaining this addition.

This document is meant to empower and inform any TAP Network Members or Partners interested in joining this advocacy process with TAP Network to amplify the priorities of the global civil society community and the Global SDG16+ Community. Please, use this document to become acquainted with progress of negotiations so far and understand the main messages that can be amplified by your organization to ensure that SDG16 reviewed annually at HLPF.

Supporting Documents

Date	Advocacy Document	In Response To
18 March 2021	Global SDG16+ Community Blog	17 March and 9 March HLPF Revised Draft
3 March 2021	Global SDG16+ Community Briefing	HLPF Zero Draft
24 February 2021	Global SDGs Civil Society Network’s Response to Zero Draft	HLPF Zero Draft

Main Advocacy Messages

- ⇒ **We urge Member States to ensure that SDG16 is reviewed annually at the HLPF. This is supported with the understanding that**
 - SDG16 is vital to respond to and rebuild from COVID-19 globally.
 - Annual review of SDG16 will ensure that the international community retains its focus on the issues that enable critical progress towards all SDGs and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
 - Today, the progress towards SDG16 is backsliding.
 - Annual review of SDG16 will provide opportunities for the international community to demonstrate measurable progress on peace, justice and inclusion and explore the vast interlinkages that SDG16 has with all other SDGs.

- ⇒ **The revised draft of the HLPF Review Resolution needs more detail about how the HLPF should improve and enhance stakeholder participation. This is supported with the understanding that**
 - Accelerating action on all 17 Goals is only possible through strengthened partnerships between national governments, local authorities, international and regional institutions, civil society, the private sector, and other groups.
 - Without significant efforts to enhance stakeholder engagement at the HLPF, important voices and perspectives are at risk of being left behind during a time where accelerated actions and mutual accountability are needed more than ever.

Advocacy using Social Media

Consider taking any of the following actions on Twitter, Facebook or any of your organization's social media platforms:

- ⇒ **Tweet/Share the main messages outlined in this document, or your organization's own priorities for the HLPF draft, including the hashtags #SDG16 and #HLPF.**

- ⇒ **Share the links to the response documents above or any other relevant resources so that your network, members or audience can also get involved ([Global SDG16+ Community Blog](#), [Global SDGs Civil Society Network's Response to Zero Draft](#), [Global SDGs Civil Society Network's Response to Zero Draft](#)).**

- ⇒ **Tag your partners and any organizations/entities that would be interested in these messages.**
 - Since negotiations on the 2021 HLPF Thematic Review are executed by Member States, tag any Member State Missions that your organization believes needs to hear your messages. Many New York Missions to the UN have Twitter accounts which can be found by searching "UN NY" and the country's name. If your organization's work is centralized to any specific countries, make sure to include their tags in your tweeting and posting.
 - Tag @TAPNetwork2030 on Twitter so that we can stay connected with your voices and interact with your organization's Tweets.

See some sample Tweets below:

“We believe that #SDG16 must be reviewed annually at the #HLPF and align ourselves with the latest Global SDG16+ Community’s Blog ‘Putting SDG16 Front and Center at Future HLPFs’.

Read and RT the document to ensure our voices are heard. <http://bit.ly/HLPFblog> @TAPNetwork2030”

[Click here to tweet this now!](#)

“To ensure that we #BuildBackBetter from COVID-19, #SDG16 must be brought to the forefront and reviewed annually at the #HLPF.

Read, RT and share the latest blog post from the Global SDG16+ Community outlining this essential priority. <http://bit.ly/HLPFblog> @TAPNetwork2030”

[Click here to start tweeting now!](#)

“To [ADD TAGGED PARTIES HERE], Civil Society needs your support NOW!

#SDG16 must be reviewed annually at the #HLPF to halt the backsliding of its progress and ensure that we #buildbackbetter. <http://bit.ly/HLPFblog> @TAPNetwork2030”

[Click here to start tweeting now!](#)

Advocacy using Email

Sending personalized, direct emails to your organization’s partners, interested parties or contacts from Member States that are directly involved in the HLPF Thematic Review negotiations is another effective way to spread and emphasize your messages. See the template below:

“Dear [NAME],

In regard to the current negotiations that are occurring for a draft of the 2021 High Level Political Forum Resolution between UN Member States, **our organization [ORGANIZATION] is advocating for an annual thematic review of SDG16 and its components of peace, justice and strong institutions.** We urge Member States to ensure that SDG16 is reviewed annually at the HLPF for these following reasons:

- SDG16 is vital to respond to and rebuild from COVID-19 globally.
- This goal will ensure that the international community retains its focus on the issues that enable critical progress towards all SDGs and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- To halt the backsliding of the progress on SDG16.
- To provide opportunities for the international community to demonstrate measurable progress on peace, justice and inclusion and explore the vast interlinkages that SDG16 has with all other SDGs.

For your reference, you can find a briefing note on the proposal for an annual thematic review at the HLPF [here](#) and a blog from the Global SDG16+ Community on the necessity of sustaining this language in the document [here](#) (<http://bit.ly/HLPFblog>).”