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Draft Substantive Intervention

SDG 16 Conference 2025

Panel 3: The way forward: Leveraging SDG 16 to accelerate progress on shared priorities in line with the Pact for the Future and other multilateral agreements and processes

12 May 2025, 16:15 -17:30
ECOSOC Chamber

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the third panel of the 2025 SDG 16 Conference, titled “The Way Forward: Leveraging SDG 16 to Accelerate Progress on Shared Priorities in Line with the Pact for the Future and Other Multilateral Agreements and Processes.”

My name is Navid Hanif. I serve as the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and it is my privilege to moderate this timely and forward-looking discussion.

We meet at a pivotal moment. The global community is preparing for a series of high-impact multilateral processes in 2025: the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, and the World Summit on Social Development. These events are opportunities to forge new commitments, galvanize global cooperation, and strengthen trust in public institutions.

To enhance the outcomes of these multilateral processes, SDG 16 must be front and centre. SDG 16 is not just a standalone goal—it is an enabler of the entire 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. Transparency and accountability are essential to ensure development financing is used effectively. Rule of law and access to justice are the foundation of equitable societies. Inclusion and participatory decision-making are critical to sustaining peace and rebuilding trust. And let us not forget that reducing violence, eliminating discrimination, and securing legal identity are preconditions for people to exercise their rights and reach their full potential.

Today's discussion is therefore not only about how the implementation of SDG 16 can be accelerated, but also about how this Goal can help strengthen other key priorities on the global agenda. It is about interdependence. About how good governance, human rights, peace, and inclusion serve as cornerstones for everything from climate action to digital inclusion to sustainable financing.

We are fortunate to have with us today a distinguished panel representing diverse regions, levels of governance, and sectors of society—from national governments to local authorities, from human rights institutions to youth-led innovation hubs. Each of our speakers brings unique experience and insight on how SDG 16 can support implementation of the Pact for the Future and other global frameworks in meaningful, practical ways.

As we listen, I encourage all of us to consider three key guiding questions:

- 1. How can leveraging SDG 16 at the international level accelerate progress on shared priorities?**
- 2. Which dimensions of SDG 16 are most relevant to today's intergovernmental processes?**
- 3. And what are the most strategic entry points for using SDG 16 to strengthen these efforts?**

Following the panel discussion, I will open the floor for statements and questions from the audience.

With that, let us begin.

Thank you.
