

The Hague Manifesto

Actions and principles for promoting global peace & justice

We commit to achieving United Nations Global Goal 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” We acknowledge that Goal 16 serves as a precondition and catalyst for achieving the other Global Goals presented in the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change and irregular immigration, to name a few of the most pressing global challenges, can only be achieved through the realisation of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies based on the rule of law and their effective cooperation.

Action on these issues is urgently needed now and cannot wait until 2030. We acknowledge individual responsibility and actions.

Building on diversity of perspectives through dialogue and sharing personal experiences, long-term innovative and sustainable approaches to peace, justice and inclusive governance can take root.

No Action without a Plan. Action plans for achieving Global Goal 16 are essential to advance progress on all 17 Global Goals. Initiated on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations in The Hague, action plans should draw on the following 7 guiding principles:

1. Engaging all actors through effective partnerships to advance Global Goal 16 and the wider Agenda 2030, including within civil society, the business community, governments, inclusive and independent media, academia, faith-based, community-based and international organisations. In particular, local communities and the younger generation need to be engaged directly in these partnerships.
2. Paying particular attention to ensuring the active participation of all people in global society, regardless of race colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste, or any other social marker of difference.
3. Facilitating online and offline dialogues and partnerships between different and often competing perspectives across generations, in order to strengthen coherence across sectors and developing new paradigms contributing to a new mind-set of achieving the Goals as a global responsibility.
4. Ensuring equal access to knowledge and information to empower all individuals and organizations committed to fully realising Global Goal 16 and the broader 2030 Agenda.
5. Implementing the Global Goals by ensuring equal access to justice and the rule of law, including through strengthening the international courts and tribunals, while acknowledging the diversity of legal systems and cultures in the world.
6. Applying existing mechanisms of mutual accountability and monitoring to progress towards the full realization of the Global Goals.
7. Ensuring sustainable commitment for the realisation of concrete actions towards the achievement of Global Goal 16.

Drawing on past accomplishments and learning from previous setbacks in the struggle for a more peaceful, just, and inclusive system of global governance, it is our shared task to present new ideas, respond to challenges and opportunities, and safeguard the expectations of future generations.