



Post-2015 Shared Framework
Global Advocacy

EVENT SUMMARY

Principles for Effective Implementation of Goal 16: National Case Studies

July 29, 2015 ▪ United Nations, New York

On July 29, 2015, the Open Society Foundations (OSF) hosted a panel event on *Principles for Effective Implementation of Goal 16: National Case Studies* on the sidelines of the final intergovernmental negotiations for the Post 2015 Agenda. Speakers represented Serbia, South Africa, and the UK, and included Commissioner Mohamed Ameerma of the South African Human Rights Commission; Matt Jackson, Head of Climate Change and Development, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom; and Srdjan Djurovic, Program Coordinator of the EU Integration Program for Open Society Foundations Serbia. James Goldston, Executive Director of the Open Society Foundations' Justice Initiative, moderated the event.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Goldston emphasized the connections between lack of access to justice and poverty. The implementation of Goal 16 should align with national planning needs, strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for development planning and review, establish national leadership and coordination with existing mechanisms, use baskets of indicators to track progress, and communicate assessments and ensure mechanism for public feedback. The ensuing presentations covered ways in which the speakers' countries were using these approaches to implement aspects of Goal 16.

Commissioner Ameerma described South Africa's history of legally-enforced racial divisions and its effects on limited access to justice. The South African Human Rights Commission frequently serves as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in human rights litigation, and has worked to raise public awareness about South Africa's constitution by making it available electronically in all official languages. The Commission maximizes its impact by frequently worked with other institutions, such as law clinics and the Department of Justice. South Africa's National Development Plan has provided an important mechanism through which government, civil society actors, and independent constitutional bodies such as the South African Human Rights Commission forged strategic engagements that coalesced in specific outcomes.

Mr. Srdjan Djurovic described the importance of Goal 16 to Serbia's national strategy to eradicate poverty. Several Serbian commissions, such as the Serbia Commission for the Protection of Equality, have played important roles in advancing goal 16 targets. In Serbia, new human rights-related institutions are often understaffed, requiring civil society groups to play pivotal roles in access to legal aid. In Serbia, progress on implementation of Goal 16 is being measured by institutional effectiveness. Cross-institutional cooperation is a core component of the successful goal 16 implementation.

Mr. Matt Jackson talked about how the wide support for Goal 16 might be communicated broadly. It is vital that implementation of Goal 16 begin immediately, so as to avoid the lag time that occurred after the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. In the UK, the government is striving for an inclusive

approach in the implementation and review process, involving diverse stakeholders. The UK's media strategy has been to raise general awareness of the SDGs, including by broadening the amount of data available, consolidating data sets, and increasing the transparency of public procurement processes.

Questions and statements from the audience included discussion about Rwanda's progress since its adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, the UNDP's work on indicators, and south-south exchange that Kenya might envision to benefit from South Africa's progress on Goal 16 implementation.