



World Federation of United Nations Associations

14 September 2020

To: All UN Associations

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all well. I am writing to invite you to co-sign a Joint Statement on Sustainable Development Goal 16+ that was officially launched during the United Nations High-level Political Forum in July 2020.

The Statement, which was composed by leading organizations belonging to the wider SDG 16+ community, including WFUNA and its 16+ Forum, is a call to action for all stakeholders, urging the prioritization of SDG 16+ in local, national and international responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda more generally, as we enter the Decade of Action.

The implementation of the SDGs, and SDG 16 specifically, was already falling behind before the onset of the pandemic, and these shortcomings have been further exacerbated in recent months. What began as a health crisis, has rapidly expanded into a socio-economic and political crisis, with inequalities and injustices across sectors at their worst levels in decades.

It is in this context that WFUNA believes, more than ever, that SDG 16+ should form the basis of our collective responses to the pandemic. The Statement promotes three broad commitments, supported by targeted actions, on how SDG 16+ can be leveraged to 'build back better', and to build resilient, just, and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence.

These commitments include:

1. We commit to act on reducing all forms of violence
2. We commit to act on people-centered justice for all
3. We commit to act on building more equitable and inclusive societies

Several organizations and UN entities have already signed on to the Statement, and we are calling on our members and partners to support and sign the Statement ahead of the UN General Assembly and the UN's 75th Anniversary this month.

Please find the Joint Statement attached to this email. We hope that this call to action resonates with you and the work you are undertaking as UN Associations, and that you will support us and the broader SDG 16+ community by endorsing it. A link to sign on to the Statement can be found at the bottom of the document.

Best regards,

Bonian Golmohammadi
Secretary-General

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