Introduction

The 2023 SDG 16 Conference addressed the role of SDG 16 in navigating the intersecting crises the world is facing. The Conference reviewed the progress and challenges related to SDG 16, focusing on conflict and shrinking trust in public institutions and SDG 16’s catalytic role in responding to food systems and climate change crises.

The Conference was hosted in Rome by the Government of Italy from 30 May to 1 June and co-organized with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UNDESA), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). Building on the outcomes of the 2019, 2021 and 2022 editions, the Conference identified solutions to accelerate progress towards SDG 16 and explored SDG 16’s transformative role in addressing various crises, including violent conflicts, climate disasters and their interconnectedness with food security and diminishing trust in public institutions at the national and international levels.

The Conference brought together over 100 speakers including Ministers and other senior government officials, Heads of UN entities and international organizations and representatives of civil society and academia from around the world.
The Conference also included a dedicated civil society track, which resulted in the updated 2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration, “If Not Now, Then When? An urgent call for transformative SDG16+ commitments at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda.”

As in previous years, the Conference aims to contribute to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the 2023 SDG Summit, as well as other intergovernmental processes.

**Objective**

The organizers of the SDG 16 Conference are holding a side event in the margins of HLPF to highlight the importance of SDG 16 in addressing current global challenges and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. The side event will share key messages from the 2023 SDG 16 Conference to the participants of the HLPF.

**Moderator**

- Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General, IDLO

**Speakers**

- H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York
- H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York, President of ECOSOC (TBC)
- Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA (TBC)
- Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations (TBC)
- Ms. Faiza Shaheen, Program Director, Inequality and Exclusion, Pathfinders (TBC)
- Mr. Peter van Sluijs, Expert Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, Cordaid; Coordinator, Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
- Youth Representative