
Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability)

1. SDG to which your DC work is most strongly related to

- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

2. Outline achievements of your DC in regard to that SDG

Although the DC-Sustainability has not specifically engaged in direct work on the SDGs (yet), we have mainly contributed to achieving the SDGs through the work of the DC-Sustainability's coordinating body, the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and its members and partners.

GFMD and the DC-Sustainability is also working to explicitly highlight how the sustainability of journalism and news media is critical to ensuring an open, robust, and pluralistic information ecosystem, as well as necessary to democratic governance in order to increase transparency and accountability, dutifully inform citizens, and safeguard the right to information. All of this is best reflected by SDG 16.

SDG 16 is particularly relevant to our work since target 10 addresses access to information. Earlier this year, members of GFMD and the DC-Sustainability participated in the UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York to present an assessment of the implementation of Access to Information (ATI) laws related to SDG 16.10.2 in six countries. Essentially, the assessment aimed to provide independent information and analyses which complement the official reporting process from national governments (Voluntary National Review) on the implementation of their ATI policies. The data was gathered into a spotlight report containing specific recommendations per country to improve ATI implementation.

During the HLPF, Owais Aslam – secretary general of Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and a member of the GFMD Steering Committee – also delivered a joint oral statement calling for the strengthening of pluralistic and independent media and journalism on the road to achieving all SDGs, as well as promoting sustainable journalism and news media. In this sense, the proper implementation of public access to information laws and the safety of journalists are prerequisite to achieving progress towards the SDGs.

Furthermore, we released a guide titled, How to Use Your Right of Access to Information, which is meant to inform journalists, activists, civil society organisations, and more about how to take advantage of ATI laws.

Even more specific to the DC-Sustainability, in late 2018, GFMD released a new, pilot

study: the Media Sustainability Barometer (MSB). A key finding in the MSB was that realising SDG 16 was positively correlated with achieving almost every other SDG – a feat that will only be possible by considering the sustainability of journalism and news media. Moreover, the MSB’s findings further corroborate research conducted by New America and the OECD that ranked the 117 targets of the SDGs in order based on their importance to catalyzing the realization of the other goals, and targets related to SDG 16 were ranked highest.

3. Outline plans towards 2025 and that specific SDG

Over the next five years, the DC-Sustainability intends to raise awareness of the connection between access to quality information and how achieving the target is critical to realising the other SDGs. The sustainability of journalism and news media is imperative to this, and given the importance of the digital sphere, the DC-Sustainability will strive to ensure that policy processes within the Internet governance community understand and address the relationship between sustainable journalism and realising the 2030 agenda.

4. List Policy Question related to the work of your DC and in regard to the specific SDG

How do we ensure that ATI and safety of journalists (both online and offline), and subsequently the sustainability of journalism and news media is recognised as a serious policy issue within the Internet governance and policy community, specifically since it has implications for achieving the entire 2030 Agenda?

1. Subquestion (A): Which policy processes are the most relevant?

2. Subquestion (B): Which policies need to be in place to (1) achieve SDG 16.10 in the digital space, and (2) provide enough support for quality information to allow for transparency and accountability for all SDGs?