GLOBAL GOALS CONFERENCE 2023

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions – Goal #16

What is a position paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Although there are several formats, the most simple one includes the following:

A. Statement of the problem
B. Past Actions (or lack of action)
C. Proposed solutions

Formatting

Position papers should:
- Include the name of the delegate and his/her country, and the committee
- Be in a standard font (Times New Roman) with a 12 point font size, 1.15-1.5 spacing, and 1-inch document margins - It should not include illustrations, diagrams, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Your position paper should not exceed a page (if it must, try not to extend past a page too far)
- Include citations and a bibliography, in APA 7 format, giving credit to the sources used in research

Due Dates and Submission

Please submit your position paper to your committee director by midnight, **Wednesday, October 18th, 2023** or earlier if you would like to get some feedback from your chairs or director. Send your position paper to ehudon@shawnigan.ca and ngill@shawnigan.ca

Position papers should be no more than one page in length, with an extra page for references.

LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 Global Goals Conference!

My name is Ella Hudon and I am very excited to be your Peace Justice & Strong Institutions committee director this year. Like many of you, global goals was my very first MUN conference, and it was also able to help me find my passion for humanities. I want to emphasise my encouragement for open dialogue. The sharing of thoughts and ideas are what is going to build strategies so we can reach goals. I have great confidence in the committee's collected potential, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

Please feel free to reach out to myself, or any of the committee staff if you have any questions regarding your position paper or about the conference in general.

Best Regards,
Ella Hudon, Neha Gill, Lauren Dovell

TOPIC OVERVIEW

The main objective of SDG number 16 is to create and promote inclusive and peaceful societies for sustainable development. The Peace, Justice and strong institutions goal is fundamental for achieving economic growth, well being of communities and individuals, reducing inequalities, and promoting an equitable society for all. This goal also encourages enhancing public participation within politics, and ensures that decisions are made in an inclusive, an accountable manner.

This is one of 17 sustainable development goals that were established in 2015 by the United Nations. However due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the frequency of conflict has increased. An example being Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, causing most of the 53% of civilian conflict related deaths that year.

Challenges implementing SDG 16 vary throughout different Nations as there are differences in socio-political, economic, and cultural contexts. With these differences in mind some common problems in terms of implementation include; political instability and fragility, corruption and lack of accountability, access to justice systems, and human rights violations and discrimination.

16.3 Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice

The rule of law is the concept that all citizens of a country — including those in power — are held accountable to the same laws. The simplest way to think about this is "nobody is above the law". With this in mind, not all countries — more commonly authoritarian regimes — abide by the rule of law.

Indicators

16.3.1
Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

16.3.2
Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

16.3.3
Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

16.C Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

Promoting and enforcing policies that do not discriminate against groups is crucial for a country's stability. With this in mind, creating policies that avoid said discrimination is able to increase political participation — allowing for more citizens to be more involved in the policy making process.
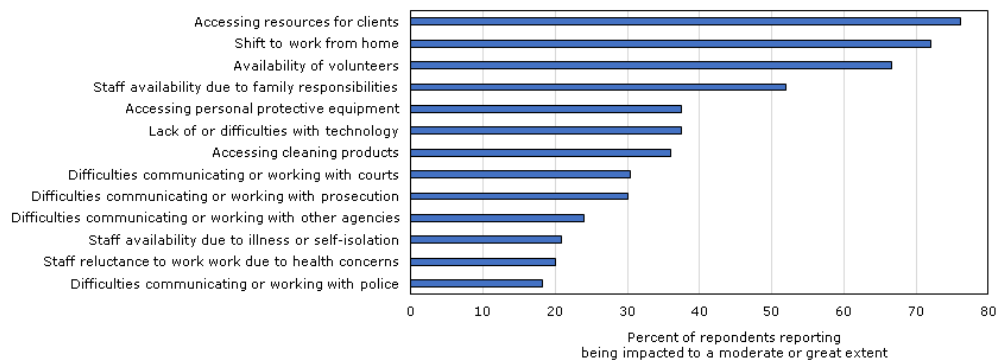
(There are no indicators for 16.C)

16.3 Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
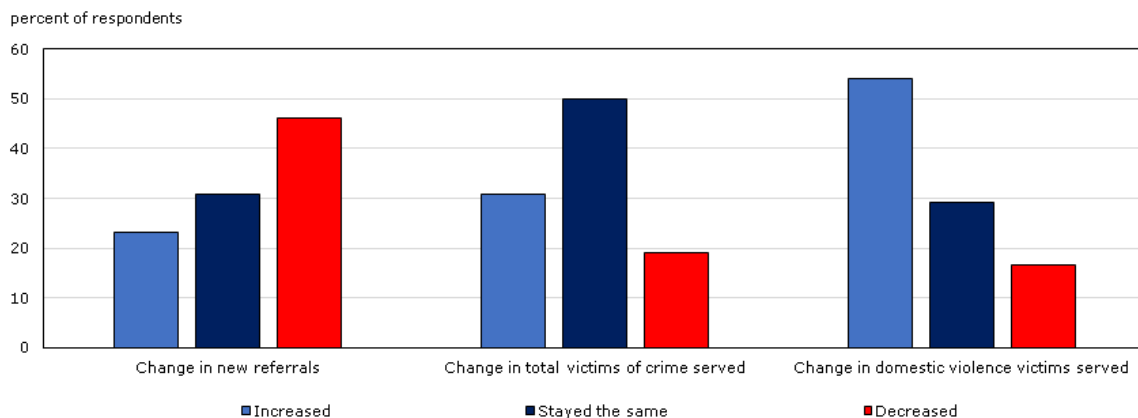
CURRENT SITUATION

The Covid-19 pandemic has been able to affect access to justice systems worldwide. Due to lockdowns citizens were not able to have physical access to legal services and courts. Not having access to these types of services left many citizens feeling vulnerable. As a result justice systems around the world are experiencing backlogs in cases, and both demand for support services and calls to hotlines have increased. Another issue that has presented itself is the level of access marginalized communities have to the legal and justice system, such as refugees, people living in poverty, internally displaced persons, and indigenous populations. Societies are not able to be inclusive if not all groups have access to the legal system, many women who experience forms of abuse go silent due to legal exclusion.

Chart 2
Factors impacting the ability of victim services to provide services to clients to a moderate or great extent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020

Factor	Percent
Accessing resources for clients	
Shift to work from home	
Availability of volunteers	
Staff availability due to family responsibilities	
Accessing personal protective equipment	
Lack of or difficulties with technology	
Accessing cleaning products	
Difficulties communicating or working with courts	
Difficulties communicating or working with prosecution	
Difficulties communicating or working with other agencies	
Staff availability due to illness or self-isolation	
Staff reluctance to work work due to health concerns	
Difficulties communicating or working with police	

Percent of repondents reporting
being impacted to a moderate or great extent

Note: Because of the non-representative nature of the sample, the results in this study do not represent all victim services in Canada.
Percent calculation excludes responses of not applicable or not stated.
Source: Statistics Canada, Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian Victim Services.

Chart 1
Perceived changes in the number of victims served since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020

percent of respondents

Legend: ■ Increased   ■ Stayed the same   ■ Decreased

Categories: Change in new referrals, Change in total victims of crime served, Change in domestic violence victims served

Note: Because of the non-representative nature of the sample, the results in this study do not represent all victim services in Canada.
Excludes respondents who reported "don't know".
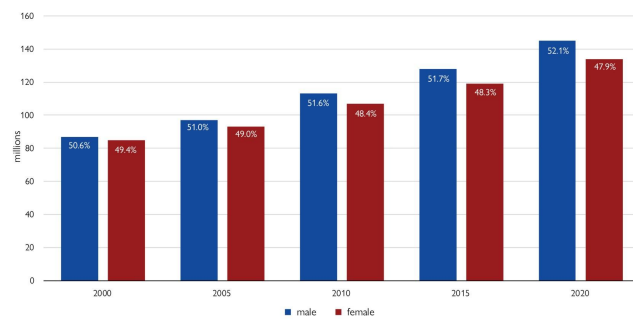**Source:** Statistics Canada, Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian Victim Services.

16.C Promote and enforce non discriminatory laws and policies

CURRENT SITUATION

The purpose of 16.C is to focus on addressing issues related to global governance, representation, and participation of developing countries in policy making. Examples of this can be seen in reforms of international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Discussions around International institutions are to ensure that they are inclusive of developing countries, resource allocation, and decision making processes. While issues involving 16.C are able to have effects on global policies and institutions, these issues carry on to affect citizens as well. Examples of this would include Migration and refugee policies. Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in migration, this has presented challenges for governments across the globe due to overwhelming social infrastructure.
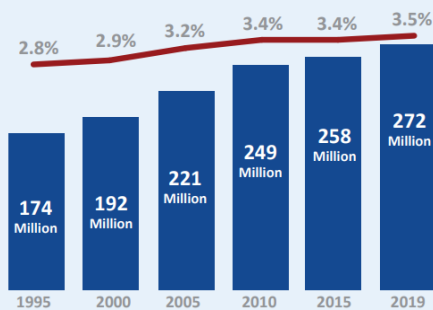
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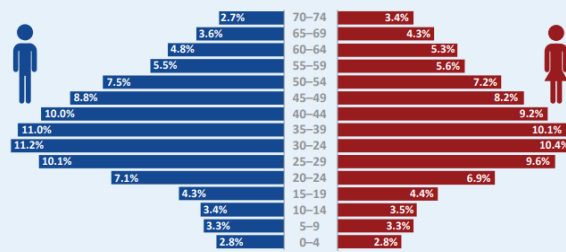
Figure 4. International migrants, by sex, 2000–2020

Source: UN DESA, 2021a.

Snapshot of international migrants

The international migrant population globally has increased in size but remained relatively stable as a proportion of the world's population

52% of international migrants are **male**, 48% are **female**

Most international migrants (74%) are of working age (20–64 years)

Age groups above 75 years were omitted (male 4%, female 6%).

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The solutions to these issues are complicated, and nations will disagree on what the best way to proceed is. Not only one solution is likely to be sufficient to solve this issue on its own, and developed and developing countries have drastically different perspectives.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Here are some possible solutions to advance SDG 16:

Strengthen Rule of Law and Access to Justice:
- Enhance legal frameworks to ensure equal access to justice for all, especially vulnerable and marginalized populations.
- Establish legal aid programs and promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve conflicts and disputes.

Promote Good Governance and Accountability:
- Implement anti-corruption measures and enforce transparency and accountability in public and private sector operations.
- Strengthen oversight mechanisms, such as independent auditing bodies, to monitor government actions and expenditures.

Support Inclusive and Effective Institutions:
- Encourage participatory decision-making processes and citizen engagement in policy development and implementation.
- Build the capacity of institutions to deliver services effectively and inclusively, focusing on training, infrastructure, and technology adoption.

Ensure Freedom of Expression and Access to Information:
- Protect freedom of speech, press, and information, and create an enabling environment for journalists and media outlets to operate without fear or censorship.
- Promote digital literacy to ensure a responsible and informed use of online platforms and combat misinformation.

Empower Marginalized and Vulnerable Communities:
- Address discrimination, marginalization, and social exclusion by implementing policies and programs that promote equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.
- Focus on education and skill development initiatives to empower vulnerable groups and facilitate their active participation in society

By implementing these solutions, governments, organizations, and communities can contribute to achieving SDG 16 and creating a more just, peaceful, and inclusive world.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What is the current situation in your country?
2. What is your country's standpoint on the rule of law?

3. Has your country been involved in reforms of international policy?
4. How can the international community assist your country to improve or be more involved in the policy making process?
5. How can your country contribute to international institutions becoming more inclusive?
6. How may your country further its efforts addressing the dilemmas in the future?

REFERENCES PAGE

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*Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions - The Global Goals*https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions/

*Impacts of COVID-19 on Justice Systems – Global Access to Justice Project*https://globalaccesstojustice.com/impacts-of-covid-19/

SDG 16 Indicators | SDG 16