

## If Not Now, Then When?

### **An urgent call for transformative SDG16+ commitments at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda**

#### **2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+**

##### **Executive Summary**

At a time of the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the international community is severely impacted by escalating humanitarian crises due to geopolitical conflicts and their consequences on international security and multilateralism, in addition to climate-induced events. At this critical crossroads, governments and the international community must rethink commitments to the SDGs and bring civil society stakeholders into wider decision-making processes to put SDG16+ at the forefront of global discussions. The [2023 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#) calls upon member states and other stakeholders to collectively work together and commit to bold actions on advancing progress towards SDG16+ for the realisation of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The declaration was issued in the context of the 2023 SDG16 Conference in Rome (31 May - 1 June) and urgently calls for concrete and ambitious commitments from member states to SDG16+ as we proceed towards the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July and the SDG Summit in September.

Through the Rome Declaration, Civil Society proposes detailed and action-oriented recommendations in four key areas to bolster and accelerate action around SDG16+: 1) Recognising and utilising SDG16+ as an enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda and for responding to current global crises as well as a development outcome; 2) Delivering bold and ambitious commitments at the 2023 SDGs Summit, 2024 Summit of the Future and beyond; 3) Delivering catalytic financing for SDG16+ and fixing the broken global financial system; 4) Recognizing the indispensable role of civil society for SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda, and protect and where possible expand civic space.

As civil society, we fear that if urgent and immediate action is not taken, governments and the international community will collectively fail to deliver on SDG16+ and the entire 2030 Agenda. To fulfil the promise to “Leave No One Behind” and for global governance institutions to perform successfully, we must work collectively together and ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making processes to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet that is in peril.

Without a strong and steadfast focus on the SDG16+ targets for peace, justice and inclusion, none of the Sustainable Development Goals will be delivered in full. **Bold commitments for urgent action are needed now! If Not Now, Then When?**