

Rule of Law in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Nick Booth, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



From MDGs to 2030 Agenda

MDGs

Limited coverage excluding governance and rights

Limited targets of aggregate achievement

Implemented and monitored by governments

2030 Agenda

Comprehensive, integrated agenda including governance and rights

Achieved for all – leave no one behind, and inequality as a cross-cutting goal

Implemented and monitored **by all** – multi-stakeholder partnership of governments, parliaments, civil society and private sector



SDG target
16.3

Promote the
rule of law at
national and
international
levels and
ensure equal
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justice for all

Rule of Law

- A principle of **governance**
- **Accountability** of all, including the State, public and private entities, individuals
- Laws are **publicly** promulgated, **equally enforced** and **independently adjudicated**
- Consistent with international **human rights** norms and standards
- **supremacy** of law,
- **equality** before the law,
- **accountability** to the law,
- **fairness** in the application of the law,
- **separation of powers**,
- **participation** in decision-making,
- legal **certainty**,
- avoidance of **arbitrariness**
- and procedural and legal **transparency**

[Report of the Secretary-General: The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies \(S/2004/616\).](#)



Four dimensions of ROL in Agenda 2030

1. A human rights-based agenda:
 - **Substantively:** all fundamental human rights (socio-economic, civic and political) are reflected in the Goals, underpinned by fundamental principle of equality and non-discrimination (leave no-one behind)
 - **Procedurally:** principles of participation, transparency and accountability, inalienability, indivisibility and universality
 - And, for every right there must be a **remedy**...

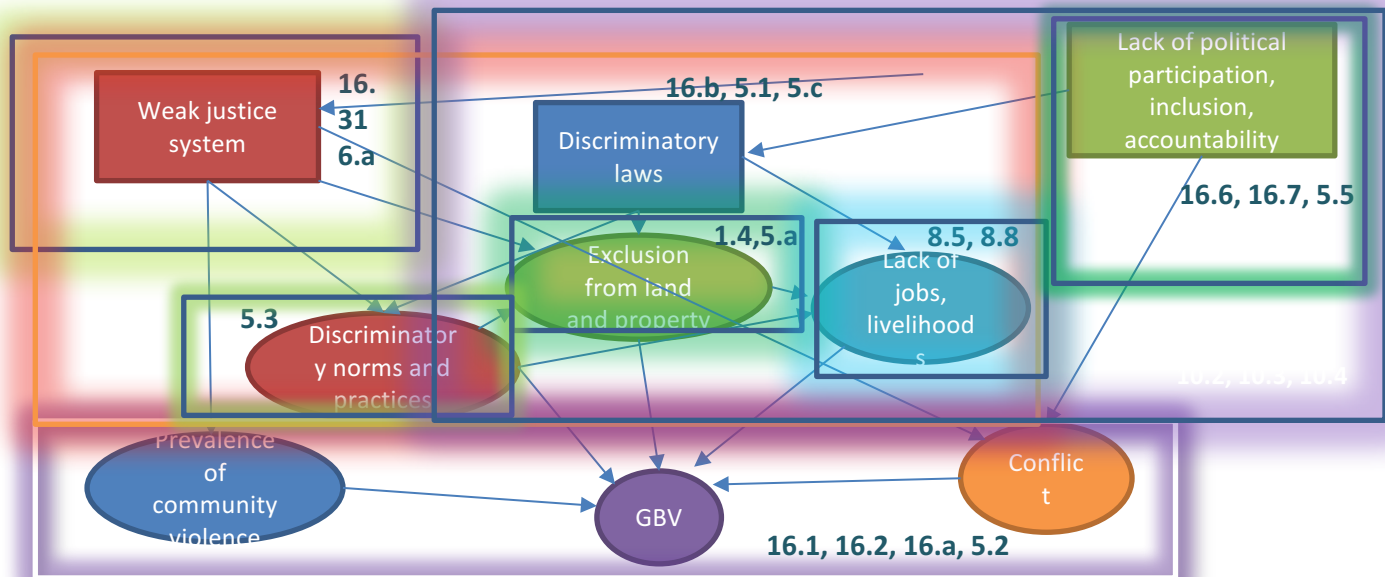
Human rights principles in the 2030 Agenda



- **Leave No One Behind**
- **All goals** including Goal 5 (gender equality) and Goal 10 (reducing inequality)
- 16.3 Promote the **rule of law** at the national and international levels and ensure **equal access to justice for all**
- 16.6 Develop **effective, accountable and transparent institutions** at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure **responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making** at all levels
- 16.9 By 2030, provide **legal identity** for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure **public access to information** and **protect fundamental freedoms**, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.b Promote and enforce **non-discriminatory laws and policies** for sustainable development



An integrated agenda: how ROL-related SDG targets address drivers of GBV





Four dimensions of ROL in Agenda 2030

2. Development, justice and peace

- Freedom from violence for all, including women, children, victims of trafficking
- ROL underpins justice and social contract – social cohesion. Hence UNDP prioritises values of ROL (tolerance, justice, equality) as a strategy to prevent violent extremism
- Transitional justice as an integral component of peacebuilding



Four
dimensions
of ROL in
Agenda 2030

3. Financial crime and corruption

- Anti-corruption
- Illicit financial flows
- Anti-trafficking, organized crime



Four dimensions of ROL in Agenda 2030

4. Role of private sector:
 - Private sector as a critical factor for the success or failure of the SDGs, especially in Asia
 - The SDGs cannot be achieved unless:
 - governments **protect** human rights against business violations,
 - business proactively **respects** human rights and
 - adequate **remedies** available for breaches
- (UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights)

Opportunities and Challenges of a Transformational Agenda



- **Innovating ROL and A2J for the 2030 agenda.** 1 out of 8 people face serious legal problems each year, and only one-third are solved in time. Justice is not working well enough, especially for the worst-off
- **Role of technology including AI:** technology can increase access to justice, but AI and machine learning pose new challenges for accountability and transparency
- **We need a data revolution:** too little data is collected about how well ROL and A2J is working, or even what resources are spent
- **We need a cultural revolution:** how to build a “culture of lawfulness” (accountability, transparency, participation) at a time when liberal values are under threat?
- **Partnerships:** How to get private sector, civil society and government to work together in a time of decreasing mutual trust?



UNDP, ROL and SDGs in Asia- Pacific

- **Business and Human Rights** – promoting UNGP on BHR with governments, private sector and CSOs (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam...)
- **Promoting a Fair Business Environment in ASEAN** (private-public sector dialogue, transparent public procurement, fair business practices, anti-corruption) – Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam
- **Judicial Integrity Champions in APEC** (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand)
- **SDG localization** in cities and regions across Asia
- **Prevention of violent extremism** (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines)
- **N-Peace** – network of women, peace and security across Asia
- **Innovation labs initiative**
- Plus country-specific projects in 36 countries

Want to get
involved?

Nicholas.booth@undp.org
+66909767369 (whatsapp)
@nickcongly (twitter)

