



UNDP OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

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Introduction

2016 has been a year of significant change in the policy environment within which the Oslo Governance Centre operates. On the positive side, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into force, with SDG 16 in particular marking a renewed commitment to the role of governance and peacebuilding in ensuring just, peaceful and inclusive societies. The UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282, respectively) also emphasised Member States' commitment to peace and development and charged the UN system with ensuring that conflict prevention is effectively integrated into all our work. On the negative side, conflict, poor governance and violent extremism and their results in terms of destroyed livelihoods have continued to grab international headlines and affect people's lives across the globe. OGC's work was already well aligned with these global issues but this year we have further sought to ensure that our support to research and dialogue informs these and other global issues, as well as the UNDP programming that responds to them.



In 2016 the Oslo Governance Centre made important progress in all of our thematic areas, consolidating our position, especially in Norway and the Nordic countries. In March, the Centre organised a major global conference on preventing violent extremism (PVE) in Oslo, bringing together some 140 people from 47 countries. We have actively followed up the conference recommendation to strengthen research and analysis on the inclusive governance aspects of PVE. To do so, we supported a variety of PVE research and analysis initiatives, including gender-related research as well as working with four of UNDP's Regional hubs, and other partners. We will build on all this work in 2017. In November, we launched the Fellowship Programme for Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) bringing together four serving PDAs to reflect on their experiences and capture their many diverse lessons learned.

There are many other highlights in this annual report reflecting a very busy year. These include a high-level UNDP seminar with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on development in complex and fragile settings, and co-convening with PRIO the Nordic consultation for a flagship UN-World Bank study on conflict prevention, and subsequently commissioning a number of background papers to further inform that study. These dialogues ensure that research is both grounded in the experience of policy-makers and practitioners, and informs their work.

Across all our activities, we have continued to strengthen our partnerships with Norwegian, Nordic and global research and policy institutions. By participating in panel discussions, book launches and giving lectures and presentations, staff have ensured OGC and UNDP have contributed to relevant discussions in Norway, the Nordic countries and beyond. For example, in

October I spoke during the Norwegian UN Day celebration on Shrinking Civic Spaces and SDGs. The following month I had the pleasure of participating in a similar discussion hosted by our UNDP colleagues at UN City in Copenhagen. OGC colleagues have also spoken at events and seminars at PRIO, CMI, NORAD, the University of Oslo, in Stockholm at the invitation of SIDA and in many other places in the Nordic region and beyond.

We have also been focusing on our dissemination of knowledge through social media, and have published 18 videos on our [YouTube channel](#), as well as [Facebook page](#) attracting many new followers, as well as expanding our [Twitter account](#).

We argue that we are uniquely placed to bridge research, policy and UNDP practitioner discussions on governance and peacebuilding, ensuring that these communities are better able to understand each and draw on each other, to support just peaceful and inclusive societies. As ever, we are grateful to the generous support from the Government of Norway which helps us to play this role, as well as the collaboration and support from all our friends and partners. And we look forward to an even busier and more productive 2017!



Sarah Lister
Director

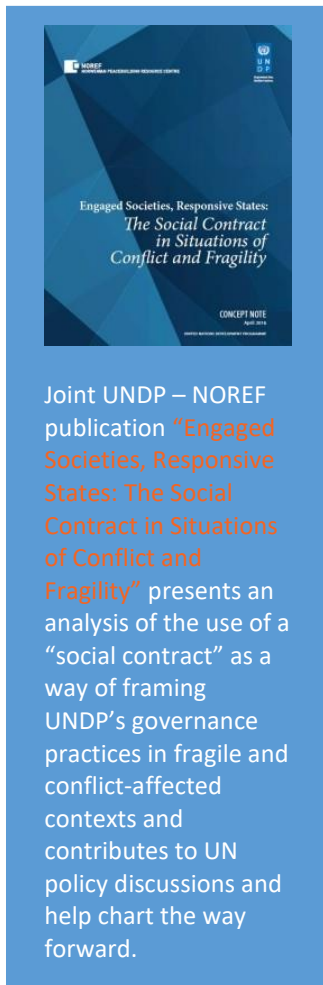
Output 1

Governance pathways for peaceful transitions out of crisis and conflict

Inclusive and effective governance is essential for the achievement of sustainable human development, and is particularly important for countries emerging from crisis and/or undergoing transition towards new political settlements.

In 2016, OGC's research and dialogue work with external and UNDP partners has included:

- Research on 'the realities of social contract making' in 12 transitional countries, in partnership with a group of national experts, led by the New School, New York. This research will be finalised and findings disseminated in 2017.
- Lesson-learning and dialogue on constitution making and transitions, including supporting a Regional Forum on the Role of Assemblies in Fostering Social Cohesion and Peaceful Political Transformations in the Arab States, with the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman.
- Learning lessons on development programming in conflict and fragile contexts – co-hosting a seminar with the Norwegian MFA.
- Developing guidance for how to support institutional and context analysis for effective programming in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
- Outreach through staff lectures/ presentations at panel discussions in different fora (e.g. universities, research institutions, government policy institutions) on issues relating to transitions, inclusivity and specific country cases.



In April, 2016 OGC and NOREF hosted a breakfast seminar ‘Societies and Conflict – UNDP’s approach in times of crisis’. This event focused on the social contract in the context of fragile states. It was set against the backdrop of challenges in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development and the redrawing of the UN and UNDP’s approach to building of resilient social contracts to strengthen institutions and facilitate dialogue. The event also saw the launch of the joint UNDP-NOREF publication ‘Engaged Societies, Responsive States: The Social Contract in Situations of Conflict and Fragility’.

We also invested time this year in developing research partnerships which will become operational in 2017.

Two major research and dialogue initiatives took place in the latter half of the year. In October, OGC and PRIO, working with other UNDP, UN and World Bank colleagues organised the Nordic consultation on a flagship UN/World Bank Study on the prevention of violent conflict. The two-day event included specific sessions for researchers and policy-makers, delving further into issues around the main components of a prevention agenda including development, security, politics and inclusion. It was part of a global series of consultations which will ensure that the study meets the needs of policy-makers. OGC subsequently commissioned background papers for the study on the areas on which we focus. These papers will be discussed and published in 2017.

In November, OGC co-hosted with the UNDP-DPA Joint Programme and NUPI, the first cohort of the Peace and Development Advisors (PDA) Fellowship. This brought together 4 serving PDAs from Cameroon (covering the Great Lakes and Sahel), Malawi, Uganda and Sri Lanka to explore inclusivity in dialogues and whether inclusive dialogues contribute to conflict prevention. The learning, knowledge, lessons learned and best practices are currently being codified and will be published in early 2017. We are planning two further cadres of the fellowship programme in 2017.



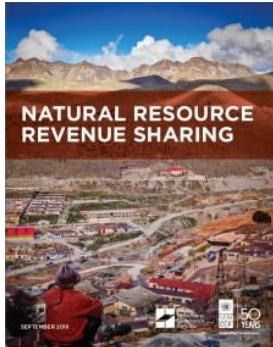
Photo (L-R): Elisabeth Schwabe-Hansen, Deputy Director, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Philippe Lazzarini, Deputy UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; Gry Larsen, Director, CARE Norway and Sarah Lister, Director, OGC.

Achieving the SDGs and Sustaining Peace: Development Programming in Complex and Fragile Settings:

This joint Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / UNDP seminar on 23 November examined how addressing fragility and sustaining peace is essential for inclusive development and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially in countries in transition. It focused on practical issues of implementation, and what the UN and UNDP can bring to efforts to achieve more resilient, inclusive and cohesive societies.

This event also marked UNDP's 50th anniversary and the close collaboration between Norway and UNDP. For UNDP, it was jointly organised by the OGC and the Nordic Representation Office.

Output 2 Governance of extractive industries in crisis and transition contexts.



'In a new study, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the UNDP explore 30 cases of resource revenue sharing and find that many of these systems suffer from flaws in design and implementation.'

[UNDP's blog on Making natural resource revenue sharing work](#)

In 2016, OGC made progress in developing policy options on the governance of extractive industries in crisis and transition contexts, focusing particularly on the critical issue of what happens to revenue from extractive industries and how this is linked to peaceful transition.

In September the joint UNDP – Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) Natural Resource Revenue Sharing Report was published and launched at the Open Governance Hub and the World Bank in Washington DC, and UNDP offices in New York and Oslo. This report explores the implications of the design of revenue sharing systems for conflict and crisis. This report will help policy makers to establish effective and sustainable natural resource revenue sharing regimes or reform existing ones. The World Bank is currently planning on developing a 'technical solutions' paper based on this report.



Seminar: Human Rights, Environment, and the Governance of Extractive Industries in Latin-America: Hosted by OGC on the 2nd December, this event saw UNDP's Pablo Ruiz Hiebra, UNDP Peace and Governance cluster leader in Latin America and Luis Francisco Thais, national coordinator for UNDP Peru's project "Prevention of Social Conflicts over the Use of Natural Resources" speak about the inter-relation between human rights, healthy ecosystems and access to natural resources and their relationship to conflict. Participants discussed environmental degradation, unsustainable natural resource management, weak public administration and regulatory capacities, and power imbalances compounded by conflict which combine to negatively affect people living in poverty. The presenters also spoke about UNDP's work and several projects in Latin America focussing on protecting human rights, mitigating environmental risks and improving the governance of extractive industries.

To engage the private sector and support multi-stakeholder cooperation, OGC/UNDP with multiple partners is also developing guidance on how the mining and oil and gas industries can support Agenda 2030. A forthcoming report 'Mapping Oil and Gas to the SDGs' will be used to provide guidance, encourage action and facilitate public – private dialogues about the extractive sector's role in SDG achievement at country levels

This year OGC also hosted several seminars on the governance of extractive industries to help build a bridge between research and analysis and policy and programming. In addition to the seminar on human rights, environment and governance of extractive industries profiled above, OGC also co-hosted with SIDA in Stockholm another similarly themed event which brought together 180 people from different backgrounds. Very positive feedback was received on the usefulness of this event.



'We are pleased that UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre is helping to place prevention of violent extremism and inclusive development higher on the global agenda.' Norwegian State Secretary Tore Hattrem at UNDP Global Meeting on PVE



Meeting report: UNDP Global Meeting on Preventing violent extremism summarizes the main conference messages on the current trends and characteristics of violent extremism and efforts to prevent it.

'Conference Reports normally leave me cold. This one from @UNDPOGC on Preventing Violent Extremism is an exception'

Tweet by:
@JamesMDeane
BBC Media Action
2 August, 2016

Output 3 Governance of inclusion in crisis and transition contexts with a focus on gender equality and the political and economic empowerment of women

During 2016, OGC strengthened its engagement with UN and other partners working on women, peace and security related issues in the areas of parliamentary strengthening, preventing violent extremism (PVE), social cohesion and the inclusion of women in peace processes. We also supported the broader work of UNDP on inclusive political processes in transition contexts, including mapping civic engagement, as well as reflecting on UN experiences of out of country voting for refugees and asylum seekers, especially in the Arab States.

To support our work on gender-related (including mainstreaming) program and policy development processes we finalised an institutional contract with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). This partnership supports gender mainstreaming into the PDA Fellowship Programme (see above), as well as research on social cohesion and gender that will feed directly into UNDP's policy development on social cohesion.

A strong focus this year under output 3 has been our workstream on PVE. Throughout 2016, OGC worked with UNDP's regional hubs and sectoral experts on advancing research on violent extremism at the country and regional levels, under the framework of the UNDP strategy on preventing violent extremism through promoting inclusive development, tolerance and respect for diversity, guided by the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. As noted in the introduction, in March we successfully hosted in Oslo a UNDP Global Meeting on Preventing Violent Extremism. This meeting was closely linked to our ongoing and subsequent dialogue, research and analysis activities with New York-based colleagues, UNDP regional hubs (Europe and CIS, Asia – Pacific, Africa and Arab States), the UNDP Youth and gender teams and external partners. In this way, OGC helps bridge research, policy and practice, linking UNDP's work globally with external partners.

In Asia, research explored the regional causes and consequences of violent extremism, which informed the development of country work by UNDP and others. A research conference on PVE co-hosted with Hedayah and held in Jakarta, Indonesia in December further looked at the relationships between research, policy and practice and provided recommendations on how to ensure research in this area has greater policy impact.

In the Arab States region, OGC worked with colleagues on the challenges of measuring PVE interventions, which in 2017 will be

Oslo PVE meeting mentioned by US Secretary John Kerry as among other important 'new initiatives and regional meetings'

Department of State/DoD/USAID Conference

October, 2016

'Organisations like the UNDP have already helpfully convened efforts to focus on the issue...'

Are there alternatives to counter-propaganda in an information age?

BBC Media Action Insight Blog
13 September, 2016

followed by the development of a global tool and framework to monitor impact of donor funded interventions.

In Africa, we worked with the Regional Hub in Addis to lay the ground for research in 2017 on various aspects of PVE such as the role of women in preventing violent extremism and the ways in which violent extremism impacts women.

While the role of young people in violent extremism cuts across many of our research initiatives, we also worked with the New York-based youth team to help refocus research efforts on the potentially positive role of youth in its prevention. We helped facilitate the establishment of an online platform - [The Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal](#) which supports the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and provides a one-stop-shop for knowledge to promote and support young people's participation in peacebuilding, including the prevention of violent extremism.

In this fast-growing field, it is especially critical to stay abreast of developments and work closely with others to avoid duplication. OGC staff have actively engaged in external PVE-related networks and activities including several focusing on the role of the media in PVE, hosted by the Global Forum for Media Development, BBC Media Action, and the Club de Madrid. We also shared UNDP's development-focused approach to PVE with Muslim philanthropists in Istanbul, and are in active discussions with the RESOLVE network on collaboration. We have also established with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) an informal research network on Peacebuilding and Violent Extremism (PaVE) which brought together interested researchers and policy practitioners to discuss lessons learned from VE programming.



Ilwad Elman, Somali – Canadian Social Activist speaking at the Oslo PVE meeting

The global meeting on preventing violent extremism and promoting inclusive development, tolerance and diversity: hosted by OGC in March, 2016 brought together 140 participants from diverse backgrounds working in 47 countries to share and discuss experiences, lessons learned and approaches to the prevention of violent extremism. The event saw three days of energetic discussion, debate and learning in which two major themes were addressed: the governance of diversity and inclusion; and the rise of violent extremism and its spread across national borders. It was opened by Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, the (then) State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tore Hattrem, and a young Pakistani human rights leader, Gulalai Ismail.

Output 4

The measurement of governance and peacebuilding outcomes at global, regional and national levels, including through SDG16, is enhanced.



Democracy and sustainable development for conflict resolution?

Op-Ed by OGC's Sarah Lister and Alexandra Wilde published in Bistandsaktuelt on #DemocracyDay - 15th September 2016'

OGC has been active throughout 2016 in supporting the implementation and measurement of SDG16 for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. We have also collected, curated and shared knowledge on SDG16, through our regular SDG16 Info Digest, Yammer, and regular informal seminars (recordings are available on [OGC's YouTube channel](#)). We are now developing a one-stop knowledge portal which will act as a virtual hub.

A strong focus this year has been on strengthening the links between global SDG16 processes and measurement and implementation and reporting at the national level.

At the global level we have built on the important role OGC played in the establishment of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics by the UN Statistical Commission to develop and standardise methodologies in governance statistics.

Support at the global level this year has included:

- Chairing some SDG16 indicator working groups.
- Supporting the Praia annual meeting and facilitating the steering committee meetings of the Group
- Providing technical support to the Praia City Group secretariat in developing its work plan.



Expert Meeting on Measuring SDG 16 Targets on Peace, Inclusion and Freedom: On 28-29 January, OGC and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) convened an expert meeting to consider proposals for various indicators of Goal 16 of the SDGs, on peace, justice and accountable institutions. Attended by 78 representatives from National Statistical

Offices (NSOs), governments, multilateral agencies, research and policy institutions, and civil society organizations, the expert meeting focused on targets 16.1 on violence, 16.3 on justice, 16.7 on inclusiveness and 16.10 on fundamental freedoms, on which there was at that point a lack of consensus about appropriate indicators. [The Report of the Conveners is available online](#) and was produced as an input to the deliberations on the indicator framework.

At the national level, the establishment of reliable, objective and verifiable monitoring systems of Goal 16 indicators is a key issue for national governments as they mainstream SDGs into national planning. In collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Community of Democracies, OGC is working to establish linkages between SDG16 implementation frameworks and OGP and other mechanisms at the national level. This work includes providing technical support to a pilot program in six countries (El Salvador, Georgia, South Africa, Uruguay, Tunisia and Indonesia) focused on the development of national systems for monitoring and reporting on SDG16.

In December, OGC/UNDP also co-hosted with Saferworld and the TAP network a workshop at the OGP summit to learn about the role of indicators in driving accountability, critically examining the theories of change underpinning the use of indicators and data in international frameworks.



Webinar: Why does SDG 16 matter to the African Great Lakes Region?

On the 4th May, OGC with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) hosted a webinar on what SDG16 means for the African Great Lakes region and why it is so important for that region. Agenda 2030 and in particular SDG 16 is of particular importance for the 12 Member States (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) many of which have witnessed recurrent crises. Seminar participants discussed the importance of implementing SDG 16 related to peaceful and inclusive societies against the backdrop of the many challenges that affect the African Great Lakes Region and how this could be achieved.

OGC Staff – 2016

Sarah Lister	Director	All year
.....
Endre Stiansen	Senior Research and Policy Advisor	Joined in January 2016
.....
Alexandra Wilde	Senior Research and Policy Advisor	Joined in May 2016
.....
Deborah Mekonnen	Policy Specialist	Until 31 Jan, 2016
.....
Aseem Andrews	Policy Specialist	All year
.....
Torni Iren Johannsen	Administrative Associate	All year
.....
June Fylkesnes	Administrative Associate	All year
.....

Further information on these or other OGC activities, is available at:

Website: www.undp.org/oslocentre

YouTube: [OGC's channel](#)

Facebook: [OGC's page](#)

Twitter: [OGC's Twitter account](#)

Please feel free to contact us at:
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