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## **Galvanizing Momentum for Building Inclusive Local Institutions - Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Tunis, Tunisia, 27 March 2019 – “Achieving the goal 16 remains a collective effort that calls the involvement of the public sector as a Key Leader in the Development Process and in the Protection of the Rights of Citizens and at the same time the commitment of the private sector as a strategic partner. Technical and financial partners can provide the necessary support, without forgetting the role of Civil Society as Key Player in accountability”, stated M. Slim Ben Jrad, General Director of Governance Services in Presidency of the Government, at the [Technical Consultation on SDG16+ on Inclusive Institutions at the Local Level](#).

Mayor of Tunis, President of the Federation of Tunisian Municipalities and Member of the Executive Bureau of UCLG, represented by the Deputy-mayor Mr Abderrazak Bouziri, reminded the commitment of Local and Regional Governments around the world for the SDGs and highlighted to continue going forward, “Decentralization should be strengthened to ensure Local Democracy and with it, the Quality of life of Citizens.”

SDG16+ refers to the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the catalytic elements of SDG16. UNDP Resident Representative El Kebir Mdarhri Alaoui explained that: “It is at the Local Level that the notion of SDG16 as an accelerator of the other SDGs is best perceived: More Efficient, Just and Inclusive Governments and local governments will be able to deliver better and better services adapted to the people and communities they serve. The coherence between the different levels of local, regional, national and global intervention is a necessary condition for the success of this complex venture.”

As part of a series of regional technical consultations held in different countries, the Government of Tunisia, UNDP, the Global Alliance for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) brought together representatives of local, regional and national governments, local government associations, civil society organizations and thought leaders from countries of the Arab Region, Africa, Latin America and Europe, to share good practices and lessons learned on the Localization, Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting, of SDG 16+, particularly around the Promotion of Inclusive and Responsive Institutions at Subnational Level. In addition, key trends and recommendations were identified to help shape National and Subnational Priorities in creating more Just and Inclusive Institutions and more Peaceful Societies at the Local Level and feed into a Global report on SDG 16+. The report will be utilized to inform the UN Expert Group Meeting

on SDG 16 in 2019 and the thematic review of SDG 16 during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2019, which is the main platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held annually at UN Headquarters in New York.

Representatives from national and local governments, civil society and the UN all took part in the technical consultation, sharing and generating new ideas for policy and for multi-stakeholder partnerships around SDG 16+ at the local level. Much of the conversation hung on the critical importance of building on SDG16+ to create a shared rights-based narrative to promote effective local governance, meaningful participation and social and territorial cohesion

There was also resounding agreement in the need to improve the way governments, national and local work with civil society at local level, women and youth. This means national government supporting with a clear legal framework for decentralization and planning processes and municipalities better equipped with financial and human resources to improve the feeling of satisfaction and trust in public administration.

Including local voices and local perspectives in the process of reporting on government progress on the international stage was also discussed as a powerful impetus for concrete change. Tunisia has already adopted the organic law n ° 2016-22 of 24 March 2016 on the Right of Access to Information, ranked among the best laws in the world because it constitutes a real step forward in the consecration of the right of Information and strengthens the institutional framework by creating a National Access to Information body while limiting exceptions. The series of regional Technical Consultations on SDG16+ aims to increase attention to and investment in SDG16 leading up to the HLPF 2019 and beyond.

#### **Other Quotes:**

*“Since 2016, Tunisia is committed to include Sustainable Development in National Strategies and Plans”* – **M. Slim Ben Jrad, General Director of Governance Services in Presidency of the Tunisian Government.**

*“Active “participation” in “meaningful” manner, inclusive of every citizen irrespective of where they belong, gender, age and making the decision-making process and peace action at the local level is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda”* – **Tomoko Vazeer, Local Governance Analyst, UNDP.**

*“SDG 16 is an opportunity to be optimistic, let’s be optimist and cooperate to achieve peaceful life. Let’s start in dialogue and find common spaces. We, local governments are the closest to the citizens, and citizens are at the heart of the NUA 2030. Let’s work hand in hand around the SDGs, for our future, on the basis of transparency and local participatory democracy. And don’t forget that:*

*We work for you “*– **Mohamed Saadieh, Mayor of Deirnbouh, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Co-president of UCLG MEWA.**

*"Our challenge for the 2 years covering the 3rd OGP national action plan (2018-2020) is to work to establish efficient, transparent, accountable and open municipal administration"* – **Aicha Karafi Hosni, President Of Tunisian Association for Local Governance.**