

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



EDAI
EDUCATION AI



Peaceful and inclusive societies for All

AI for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 16 encounters significant challenges, with no targets currently on track. This lack of progress is evident in the 50% surge in civilian deaths in 2022, the global displacement of 104.8 million individuals by the end of 2022, and the identification of nearly 200,000 trafficking victims between 2017 and 2020.

AI's connection with SDG 16 is well-documented, with numerous use cases in AI repositories: 5 out of 40 in the AI for Good: Innovate for Impact, and approximately 135 use cases out of 408 in the UN Activities on AI. This highlights the significance of AI for SDG 16 and underscores the critical role of strong and inclusive institutions in AI development.

Specifically, AI applications include driving efficient and equitable justice, improving government record-keeping and identification processes, enhancing national security through crime prediction, and detecting money laundering activities. AI presents both opportunities and challenges in achieving SDG 16. On one hand, AI can provide governments with tools to enhance public safety and justice. On the other hand, it could also be exploited for governmental abuse. A key area where AI intersects with governance is through its use in social media, which can influence citizen behavior by polarizing opinions.

Recommendation algorithms often reinforce users' interests by repeatedly exposing them to the same content (creating echo chambers) and limiting access to diverse viewpoints (filter bubbles). This restricts citizens' exposure to new ideas and credible information, potentially deepening extreme beliefs. The spread of misinformation through AI-generated content, such as deepfakes or biased data, complicates the process of discerning truth. This not only undermines social cohesion but also impacts individuals and the legal system. Detecting deepfakes, for instance, requires specialized tools, making it difficult for people to verify the authenticity of information.

Lastly, the centralization of AI ownership by a few entities can restrict participation, both among countries and individuals. This consolidation of power may lead to limitations in social systems, as those who control AI could influence who benefits and who is excluded from its advancements.

Key Considerations for Stakeholders

- **Data privacy:** Lack of trust in data sharing could reduce the potential of smart cities. Governments should make sure to create an appropriate privacy framework to avoid any problems with the over-sharing of data.
- **User-centric:** Align the development of AI solutions with UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence that human dignity is maintained.

Impact

According to a study on the impact of AI on SDG 16, AI could act as an (positive) enabler for 58% of the targets and act as an inhibitor (negative) for 25% of the targets.

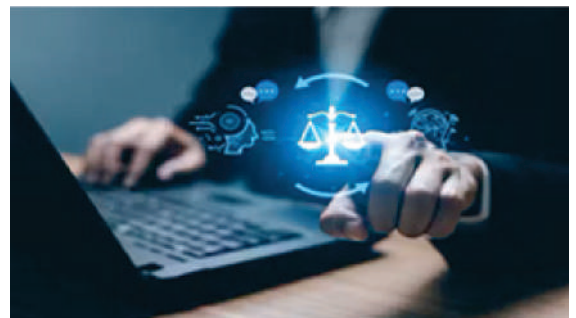
Use case 1

Using AI powered technologies to drive safer cities



Use case 2

Developing AI-technologies to give access and discuss them in forums to legal support and legal system to anyone who might need it.



Use case 3

Leveraging AI to assess whether some content accessed is deep fake or real information.



SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



FACTS AND FIGURES

- **Civilian deaths in armed conflicts surged by 72% in 2023** compared to 2022, reaching over 33,400 - nearly matching the 2015 peak.
- In 2023, **seven out of ten** recorded civilian deaths in armed conflicts occurred in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel.
- In 2022, **2 in 10** civilians killed in conflicts were women; **1 in 10** were children. By 2023, **4 in 10** were women and **3 in 10** were children.
- In 2022, nearly **a third (3.5 million)** of the global prison population of 11.5 million was being held in pre-trial detention.
- Based on data from **138 countries**, **19% of people** who had contact with public officials reported being asked to pay or paid a bribe, ranging from **32% in low-income countries** to **9% in high-income countries**.
- In 2023, **320 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 40 countries** were killed, down from 448 cases in 36 countries in 2022.
- Conflict zones saw a **sharp increase in the killings of journalists and media workers**, with 40 lives lost, reversing a downward trend since 2017.
- Between 2015 and 2023, the number of countries with independent national human rights institutions meeting international standards increased by 23%.
- **Youth representation in parliaments** is increasing globally, but **women's leadership roles** are growing slowly. As of January 2024, women hold **23.8% of parliamentary speaker positions** and **27.2% of committee chair posts**.
- While a few regions like Northern America and Europe and Australia and New Zealand have achieved **universal birth registration**, **only half of African children under five** have had their births registered.



WHERE WE STAND

- **Rising conflicts and violent organized crime** persist around the world, causing immense human suffering and hampering sustainable development.
- **Forcibly displaced people** reached **unprecedented 120 million** in May 2024. **Civilian casualties in armed conflicts surged by 72% in 2023**.
- Corruption continues to divert resources from sustainable development, with **one in five people** reporting being asked to pay or having paid a bribe to a public official in the last 12 months.
- Governments globally **struggle to restore pre-COVID-19 budget** reliability amid new international pressures affecting economies that have increased budget expenditures beyond initial approvals.

Global Youth AI Advisory Body

