

SDG16 – PEACE AND JUSTICE

CONCISE GUIDES TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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SDG16 – PEACE AND JUSTICE

Challenges, Actions and
the Way Forward

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United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India
Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2019

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78973-480-5 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-78973-477-5 (E-ISBN)

ISBN: 978-1-78973-479-9 (Epub)



ISOQAR certified
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standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Radović would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments. Ruth Trumble, from The University of Wisconsin also gave much assistance. Particular gratitude is owed to Professor Natalija Bogdanov, Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade University, who leads the project The Rural Labour Market and Rural Economy of Serbia – Income Diversification and Reduction of Poverty financed by the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia (No. 179028), especially for her contribution to the section on the New Serbian policy of rural development based on Environmental Justice.

INTRODUCTION

Prima facie, the title of this book appears to be three topics interconnected by the fabric of human survival (peace, justice and an inclusive society). Sustainable development goal (SDG) 16 – *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels* – can be defined as the most ambitious of all the SDGs. Therefore, the author will present in three chapters the basic elements included in Agenda 2030, followed by previous and recent research on the idea of a peaceful global community in the twenty-first century. Chapter 1 provides insights into the importance of the inclusion of peace as a priority in the post-2015 agenda. Here, SDG16 in Agenda 2030 is presented along with an explanation of its targets and indicators inter-linked with other SDGs and highlighting the need for mainstreaming SDG16 in the future. Chapter 2 describes how an international commitment to the creation of a just society can be implemented in a globalised, unstable world and put at the forefront of public debate. This issue is explored with reference to previous experience and the suggestions of numerous actors, which are useful for future planning and implementing strategies for achieving the just society as part of SDG16. A particular part of this chapter concerns environmental justice (EJ), which is an urgent need in eradicating the gaps between the global north/south, rich and poor, and developed and

developing countries. Chapter 3 is devoted to the inclusive society and all the efforts and obstacles which come with the target of Agenda 2030 of ensuring that, ‘no one is left behind’. It refers to the need to include every member of vulnerable and marginalised groups in societal processes and conveys the notion that people should not only be allowed to thrive but should also have a chance to participate and shape the course of development. Short subchapters are devoted to migrants, women and disabled people who are valuable for building a more inclusive society in general and, of course, in achieving the declared SDG16 targets in this area. The book concludes with the statement that in the less than five years since the UN Agenda 2030 was adopted, there are still many issues to be solved on the path to achieving its SDGs. Many academics recognise the achievement of SDG16 as one of the most challenging in a complex global society. Nevertheless, it is evident that we are on the right path and, as with every path, we have to be aware of existing obstacles.