



## **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Catalysts for Sustainable Development - The Case of SDG 16 Implementation in the Philippines**

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### **Abstract**

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) 2030 were established as a comprehensive framework to address the global challenges currently faced by the world. SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is essential to all development goals, from poverty eradication to cooperation and partnerships. As societies implement these goals, it is incumbent on them to use the lenses of peace and justice to build an inclusive society for socio-economic development for all. This study analyzes the value of SDG 16 in achieving related UN SDGs and discusses the latest progress report in the Philippines to infer some lessons. The qualitative case study approach and secondary data analyses, drawn from the accounts of designated reporting agencies in the Philippines, are utilized. The data set shows several challenges in attaining the specific indicators of SDG 16. Still, it could all boil down to two main concerns — equitable and accurate access to data and the transparency and accountability mechanisms of the institutions. The recommendations provided in this study can help policymakers and practitioners improve the implementation of SDG 16 in the Philippines and other developing countries and contribute to the existing literature on the topic.

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