



# DLA Piper's Commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 2030 agenda for sustainable development, adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity. At its heart are the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The private sector has a crucial role to play in the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. As a leading global business law firm, we have the ability to make a very significant contribution to the objectives set out in Goal 16 – which include targets related to rule of law, access to justice, accountable institutions and non-discrimination. With that ability comes a moral imperative to

act, and this report details some of our recent contributions towards the achievement of those targets.

At DLA Piper we believe it is incumbent upon us to exemplify the very highest ideals of responsible business behaviours. Acting responsibly is one of our core values which is relevant to the conduct of our own operations, the advice we

provide to our clients and our role in society. All of the work detailed in this report has been undertaken by DLA Piper lawyers on a pro bono basis. Over the past 5 years, our lawyers have undertaken more than one million hours of pro bono work, with a notional value in excess of £250 million. In addition, we have committed more than £2 million in financial support for UNICEF's work reforming justice systems around the world.

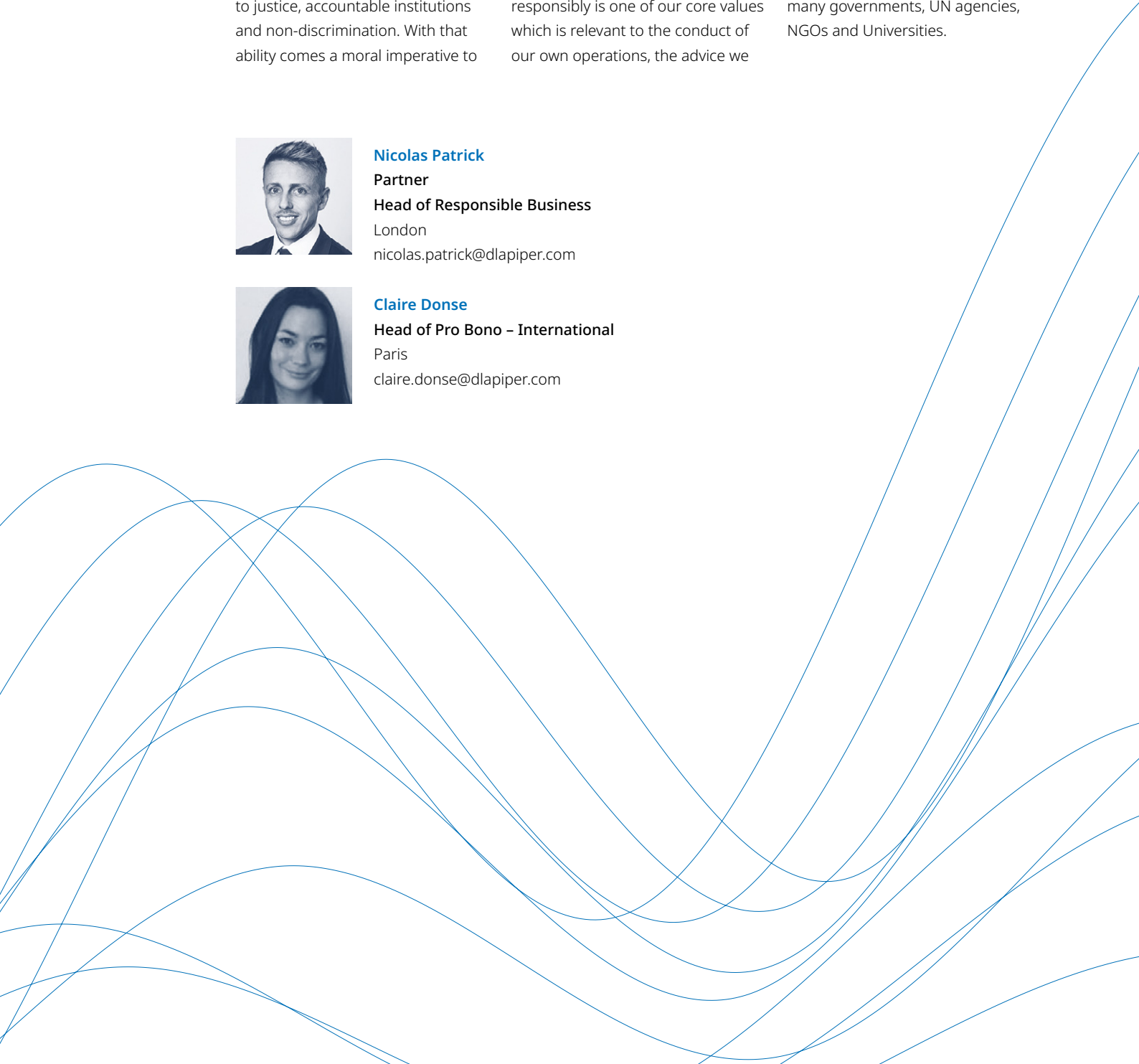
We recognise and sincerely thank our partners in this work, including many governments, UN agencies, NGOs and Universities.



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## SDG 16 Target 1

### SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND RELATED DEATH RATES EVERYWHERE

- With **UNICEF**<sup>1</sup>, we are supporting the protection of girls in **The Gambia** from abuse and exploitation in early marriage by providing technical assistance to draft legislation to end child marriage. We are also protecting children in **Mongolia** from violence through a review of the Mongolian Child Protection Act to ensure it is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international best practice.
- With **Rainlily**, we are supporting women in **Hong Kong** who have been physically and sexually abused by assisting them to seek compensation and avoid termination of their employment.
- We have supported the **Center for Reproductive Rights** to advocate for access to safe and legal abortion in **Asia**, a denial of which is a form of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and a cause of death of girls and women, through the preparation of shadow UPR and treaty body reports.

## SDG 16 Target 2

### END ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST AND TORTURE OF CHILDREN

- With **UNICEF**, we are supporting reform of the juvenile justice system in **Bangladesh** and **The Gambia** to protect the best interests of the child and ensure detention is a last resort by providing technical assistance to draft legislation and build capacity building of law enforcement personnel.

- With the **US Department of State and New Perimeter**, we are combatting trafficking and abuse of domestic workers through a package of model documents for domestic workers **globally** to use with their employers including an employment contract and a memorandum of understanding between countries sending and receiving migrant domestic workers.
- For the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** and **UNICEF**, we are preparing a report on the legislative requirements on State signatories to the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography including its applicability to business enterprises and a detailed analysis on State current policies and individual achievements and shortcomings in relation to the Optional Protocol.
- With **ECPAT**, we assisted with the Global Study on the Exploitation of Children in the Travel and Tourism Industry which led the General Assembly of the UN World Tourism Organisation to approve the transformation of the Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention, known as the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics.

## SDG 16 Target 3

### PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

- With **UNAIDS**, we are developing a **global** scorecard on the obligations of countries to ensure strong rule of law and the provision of an enabling legal environment. This will help end the AIDS epidemic

by the removal of discriminatory and harmful criminal laws, and the introduction of new laws to protect against violence and discrimination.

- For the **Council of Europe**, we are preparing a report on systemic access to justice issues for Roma and Traveller women in **Greece, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey** and **Ireland** on the basis of data collected through the 10 JUSTROM legal clinics which provide free legal advice in ten locations across Europe.
- Through partnerships with various universities, we are teaching students, paralegals and legal professionals in **UK, France, Belgium, Italy, Myanmar, Vanuatu, Fiji, The Solomon Islands** and **Samoa** on the rule of law, access to justice and pro bono legal work.
- At DLA Piper, we have launched a global scholarships programme for undergraduate law students from the UN's **50 Least Developed Countries**. The program provides students with access to role models, work experience, mentoring and financial assistance and supports the students' skills development, builds capacity and promotes the rule of law.
- With the **International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination**, we are improving justice for victims of violence in **Pacific Island Nations** through an analysis over 900 sentencing decisions in relation to gender bias and advised on the development of a gender based violence sentencing handbook. We have also provided related rule of law and gender based violence trainings to prosecutors, magistrates and attorneys general in the region.

<sup>1</sup> DLA Piper has been providing pro bono support to UNICEF UK since 2013. This has included providing technical support and vital resource to UNICEF UK, which benefits UNICEF offices globally.



## SDG 16 Target 4

### SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ILLICIT FINANCIAL AND ARMS FLOWS, STRENGTHEN THE RECOVERY AND RETURN OF STOLEN ASSETS AND COMBAT ALL FORMS OF ORGANIZED CRIME

- With **Liberty Asia**, we have advocated in a white paper for increased financial regulation in **Hong Kong** markets and strengthened practices for identification and eliminating social risk which, in turn, will help reducing illicit money flows and exploitation of people.
- We have supported Oxfam to contribute to the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations, and subsequent efforts to improve implementation of the treaty.
- With **the Royal Foundation** of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry on behalf of the **United for Wildlife** collaboration, we are helping to reduce the illegal money flows associated with the illegal wildlife trade by strengthening illegal wildlife legislation and its enforcement in a number of countries including **Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar** and **Namibia**.

## SDG 16 Target 5

### SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY IN ALL THEIR FORMS

- At DLA Piper, we enforce a strict anti-bribery and corruption policy which applies to all our people globally and take a zero tolerance approach to breaches. We also expect our business partners to have similar policies which apply

to all dealings with, on behalf of, or involving DLA Piper and have a clause in our standard terms of business with clients which sets out our anti-bribery and corruption policy and our expectations of our clients.

- We advise business and NGOs globally on best practice anti bribery and corruption approaches, and regularly host events for companies and other stakeholders outlining and promoting best practice on this subject.

## SDG 16 Target 6

### DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

- We have seconded lawyers to Vanuatu to help the Government with rebuilding the country following cyclone Pam. The secondees advise **various** Ministries on a range of business, infrastructure and foreign affairs issues, risk management and access to emergency funding during natural disasters, and build local capacity.
- We contributed to an extensive information gathering exercise organised by the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** to collect information about the work of state-based non-judicial mechanisms in **Guatemala, China, France, Norway, Mexico, Poland, Morocco** and Nigeria, representing all UN regional groupings, looking at how (and how well) State-based non-judicial mechanisms relevant to business and human rights issues function.

## SDG 16 Target 7

### ENSURE RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS

- We advised **Afghanistan** in relation to the Government's arrangements for the upcoming national elections to ensure there was a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Government vis a vis other important actors including UNDP.
- With **UNESCO, UNFPA** and **UNAIDS**, we provided training to lawyers and youth activists in the **Philippines** to utilise human rights and international human rights mechanisms to push for law reform and policy change to improve protection and realisation of sexual and reproductive health rights.
- With **UNICEF**, we assessed the compliance of the **Netherlands** with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of its national policy process by considering the Government's use of child impact assessments during the legislative process and international human rights standards.
- With **UNICEF**, we are advocating for stronger rights and protections for children in **Australia** through the preparation of an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child which includes and promotes the voices of children and argues for better access to justice for children in Australia.

## SDG 16 Target 8

### BROADEN AND STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- We advised **Timor-Leste** on its historic maritime treaty with the Australian Government following the successful outcome of a compulsory conciliation process in the International Court of Justice.
- We have assisted the **Permanent Mission to the Republic of the Maldives and Small Island States** on issues pertaining to climate change and small island states and advised **Timor-Leste** at COP21, the international climate change negotiations Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- We have advised the **g7+** (a voluntary association of fragile countries that have been affected by conflict, but which are transitioning to the next stage of development) to help unite conflict and post-conflict affected countries and change the way that the developed world channels its aid and development programmes.
- We are supporting the strengthening and participation of **The Gambia** and **Malawi** in the UN treaty body reporting mechanisms by providing technical assistance and training to the Governments on reporting obligations.

## SDG 16 Target 9

### PROVIDE LEGAL IDENTITY FOR ALL, INCLUDING BIRTH REGISTRATION

- Through legal clinics in various locations, we are assisting stateless people in **Italy**, **Netherlands** and **France** to gain legal recognition using mechanisms which are available in individual jurisdictions.
- With **UNICEF**, we are improving birth registration practices by reviewing legislation in a number of jurisdictions across **Africa** and **Asia** to assess the consistency and adequacy of the laws and target advocacy efforts for key areas for change.
- With the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**, we are mapping the legal mechanisms used by States to extend protection and grant status based on international human rights instruments to persons who do not qualify for protection under international refugee law, but whose removal from the territory would be contrary to obligations under international human rights law, including the principle of non refoulement.
- We have assisted gender diverse individuals in **Australia** through individual communications to the UN and strategic litigation to ensure legal recognition of their gender on identity documents and advocate for the removal of discriminatory laws.
- With the **European Network on Statelessness**, we reported on childhood statelessness in **Austria**, identifying the gaps in law & policy, and advocated for law reform to end childhood statelessness in the country.

## SDG 16 Target 10

### ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- With **UNAIDS**, we are protecting the fundamental freedoms of assembly and association in **various countries globally** through research on international standards around freedom of association and assembly in the context of shrinking space in civil society. We are also helping to remove discriminatory travel barriers for individuals living with HIV through research on legal, policy and de facto barriers to the entry, stay and residence of persons living with HIV in the **Caribbean** and **Central Asia**.
- Through our secondees to the **Center for Reproductive Rights**, we are improving access to information on sexual and reproductive health in **Kenya** through a fact finding mission and development of a report for advocacy on policy change and provision of sexual and reproductive health information to the public.
- We provide interactive 'know your rights' training to different community groups including refugees, school students and homeless young people in **UK**, **Austria**, **Spain**, **Netherlands**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Australia** and **Thailand** to improve awareness of their rights, build capacity and help reduce the demand on legal services.

## SDG 16 Target 11

STRENGTHEN RELEVANT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FOR BUILDING CAPACITY AT ALL LEVELS, TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND COMBAT TERRORISM AND CRIME

- With **UNICEF**, we are working with the Government to support the development and implementation of a transitional justice mechanism in **The Gambia** to better protect the rights of children and prevent their exploitation and involvement in crime.
- With **UNICEF**, we are analysing the compliance of **France** with its international obligations in the treatment of minors associated with terrorist groups in the Iraqi-Syrian territories and whether the participation of said minors in terrorist groups could be excused by their potential qualification as victims of human trade.

## SDG 16 Target 12

STRENGTHEN RELEVANT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FOR BUILDING CAPACITY AT ALL LEVELS, TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND COMBAT TERRORISM AND CRIME

- With **UNAIDS**, we are ensuring protection against discrimination in **Palau, Malawi and Myanmar** through the removal of laws that discriminate on the basis of HIV through the analysis of proposed legislation and provision of advice on ensuring the legislation is in line with human rights standards and is non-discriminatory.
- With **UNICEF**, we supported the drafting of a draft bill on disability rights in **The Gambia** to ensure it is in line with international best practice and prevents discrimination against people with disabilities.

- For the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**, we have analysed the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the interaction between article 13 on access to justice and article 24 on inclusive education, to identify the practical difficulties, that claimants with disabilities (or their legal guardians) face in securing access to justice in the context of inclusive education.

