



## SDG 16 AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN COSTA RICA

### National Human Rights Institutions implement SDG 16 as part of their mandate

Sustainable Development Goal 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” aspires, among other things, to build transparent justice systems and institutions that are capable of tackling corruption and guaranteeing access to justice for all. These are also longstanding human rights claims.

In Costa Rica, the National Human Rights Institution (Defensoría de los Habitantes) is working towards enhancing the protection of human rights within public institutions and monitoring its progress in SDG review, with a focus on four SDG 16 targets: 16.5 Reduce corruption; 16.6 Develop transparent and effective and institutions; 16.7 Ensure inclusive decision-making; 16.10 Ensure access to public information.

To this end, the Defensoría has taken part in the development of the “National Strategy for Integrity and Prevention of Corruption” which coordinates and creates networks for fighting national-level corruption. Furthermore, they work inter-institutionally, meaning that they have the mandate to access institutional corruption complaints and coordinate with relevant institutions. In regards to transparency, the Defensoría ensures that public management complies with human rights regulations and with good governance criteria. Since 2015 the institution has been running a platform called “Transparency in the Public Sector” in collaboration with The University of Costa Rica, which enables public institutions to annually report information regarding access to information and civic participation.

This example demonstrates the synergies between the human rights and SDGs ambitions and is a testimony for the need to systematically coordinate with human rights actors in SDG implementation, monitoring and review. This can maximize the use of the right expertise to strengthen delivery of the SDGs while applying a human rights-based approach to leave no one behind.