Review of Transparency International's SDG 16 Parallel Reporting Tool

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1. Executive summary

In the wake of the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, in 2017, the Secretariat of Transparency International (TI-S) developed an [SDG 16 parallel reporting tool](#) with the aim of supporting TI national chapters in monitoring their government's progress on the four anti-corruption targets of SDG 16 – namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. The overall aim of TI-S in developing this tool was to strengthen chapters' ability to engage in SDG 16 advocacy, by producing evidence to supplement the official government reports submitted as part of the official 'Voluntary National Review' (VNR) process. Looking at both the quality of the legislative and institutional framework and its actual implementation, the tool provides a snapshot of the state of affairs in 19 thematic areas and helps formulate specific recommendations, all of which is then captured in an SDG 16 Parallel[1] Report.

The purpose of this review is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of TI's SDG 16 parallel reporting tool as a research and advocacy tool. More specifically, the review aims to evaluate the tool in three respects:

1) **Its advocacy impact to date:** What has been the impact of the findings and recommendations generated by the tool so far, at country, regional and global level?
2) **Its methodology:** How effectively is the research methodology fulfilling the tool's main aims?
3) **Its capacity requirements:** What resources (time, human, incl. skills/ expertise, and financial) are required for the effective and sustainable use of this tool by the TI Movement?

Based on the experience of TI Chapters (or national contacts/national partners) in 43 countries having used the tool so far, figure 1 summarizes the key findings of this review using a SWOT framework:

Figure 1: SWOT analysis of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool

Internal strengths	Internal weaknesses
• Chapters are expressing strong demand/interest, investing their own resources • Some chapters interested in leading regional reports • Methodology already proven to be robust, clear, easy to use • Can be applied in full or in parts, depending on research needs/advocacy priorities • Provides a fairly quick snapshot of a country's anti-corruption framework ('mini-NIS') • Brings together research already conducted by chapters in a coherent whole	• Varying levels of capacity among chapters to conduct the research and to convert it into reports that are effective for advocacy • Limited funding allocated to this initiative at TI-S level, which led to a lack of dedicated resources (TI-S staffing, finances) to support continued roll-out • Lack of a coherent global advocacy strategy • Limited integration with TI's regional/global projects

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[1] The terms 'shadow report' and 'parallel report' have been used interchangeably by chapters and staff at TI-S. For sake of consistency, this report uses the term 'parallel report' throughout.

External opportunities	External threats
• Overlaps with most of TI's regional/global projects (in terms of thematic areas covered by the tool) • Can be followed up with more in-depth assessments of specific issues/institutions, using other TI methodologies • Provides actionable data (much more so than the CPI and GCB)	

External opportunities	External threats
• Growing international focus on SDG 16 and its relevance for other SDGs (Pathfinders[2] advocating for 'SDG 16+'; Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG 16+ advocating for SDG 16 to be reviewed annually at the HLPF given its cross-cutting nature) • Growing international focus on the need for 'spotlight' (i.e. independent) reporting by civil society[3] (TAP Network currently building a global repository of spotlight reports) • Donor interest (incl. from the EC) in supporting civil society participation in implementation and monitoring of SDGs • Tool positions TI as a source of rigorous, credible and globally comparable non-official data on one third (4) of the 12 targets under SDG 16 (i.e. those related to anti-corruption) • SDG 16 framing adopted in several global policy processes (beyond the HLPF) which can be leveraged by TI for advocacy	• VNRs are not binding, so SDG 16 parallel reports may have limited impact only • In more developed settings, the SDG Agenda might not be a 'priority' and therefore may not be the most effective advocacy angle

Table 1 summarizes the main challenges identified in the course of this review and proposed recommendations:

Table 1: Main challenges identified and proposed recommendations

Main challenges identified	Proposed recommendations
1. Advocacy	
The impact of global advocacy around SDG 16 parallel reports	✓ TI-S should develop a global advocacy strategy on SDG 16 parallel reporting which connects global, regional and country

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[2] The Pathfinders is the largest and most influential alliance of member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and private sector working in support of SDG 16 and its related 24 other targets related to peace, inclusion and justice across 7 other SDGs.

[3] See Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG 16+ (May 2019): Para. 23 b) calls for "a platform for the collection of SDG "Spotlight Reports" from civil society, and include these reports as official inputs into VNR processes at the HLPF." See more on 'Publishing Civil Society SDG Spotlight Report' in the SDG Accountability Handbook – A Practical Guide for Civil Society by the TAP Network (2019).

(which so far has mainly consisted in holding side-events at the HLPF) has been negligible and probably lower than other comparable campaigns by TI. Little has been done with the wealth of data generated and there was never a clear strategy about how the national parallel reports would drive forward TI's global SDG advocacy aims. Chapters are calling for more engagement by TI-S in this area, stressing the critical effect of global and regional advocacy carried out by TI-S in enhancing their country-level advocacy.	level advocacy, and which leverages a range of global and regional platforms beyond SDG 16 and the HLPF. ✓ Where possible, this global advocacy strategy could be supported by (and integrated in) the advocacy work carried out by relevant TI regional and global projects, in order for the findings and recommendations of relevance to these various projects to be disseminated in the regional/global fora TI is already engaging with. ✓ A global report should be published in time for the next HLPF (July 2020) – and/or for the Extraordinary General Assembly against Corruption convened by the UN, at the initiative of Peru and Colombia, to be held in the first half of 2021. ✓ The production of short regional reports zooming in on a subset of policy areas of common relevance in a given region and drawing on examples and case studies from national parallel reports should continue to be supported by TI-S. ✓ Countries reporting to the HLPF on any given year (where TI has a presence) should systematically produce an SDG 16 parallel report. Relevant parts of it could be employed in a targeted way to feed into TI's advocacy on the other 'non-SDG 16' goals that are subject to in-depth review at the HLPF each year (e.g. highlighting the relevance of a country's framework on access to information for climate finance transparency / SDG 13 on Climate Action) ✓ Chapters that have already produced a parallel report could produce short annual updates (2-3 pages each year), using the first assessment as a baseline against which to measure their countries' anti-corruption efforts until 2030. Such annual updates should not only summarize changes over the previous 12 months but also track the implementation of recommendations made in the initial report, to build pressure on government. ✓ TI-S should develop a simple web platform to host all data generated by chapters in one place, visualize it graphically, enable comparisons with other countries and/or regional average, and track progress over time.
Chapters who participated in regional initiatives would have hoped for more involvement from TI-S in crafting the messaging around regional reports, and in advocating	✓ Regional chapter leads say that they only have limited capacities to carry out regional advocacy and that further support from TI-S would be needed. Going forward, the near-complete delegation of responsibility to regional chapter leads by TI-S (as was done during the first phase) may not be a sustainable arrangement, given the significant trade-off in

around their findings and recommendations, once they were published.	terms of coordination. In the absence of effective knowledge management at Secretariat level, this can lead to a 'splintering' of the tool, whereby TI-S loses oversight of the quality of regional reports and of the regional advocacy carried out.
	✓ Given the strong interest expressed by several chapters to lead (sub-)regional initiatives, TI-S regional advisors could work in tandem with (sub-)regional chapter leads to support the design and implementation of effective regional advocacy strategies.
No chapter reported any take-up of findings and/or recommendations made in parallel reports in their country's VNR, or in their country's national SDG 16 monitoring framework.	✓ For TI's parallel reports to have more influence over government reporting on SDG 16/anti-corruption in VNRs, assessments need to be completed earlier than July, when VNRs are tabled at the HLPF. Chapters should find out about the calendar for government-civil society consultations around the drafting of their country's VNR, and actively engage this process.
	✓ Other important SDG constituencies that should be engaged more systematically by chapters include relevant agencies/inter-ministerial committees responsible for SDG implementation and monitoring in their country; national statistical office should also be engaged, given their critical role in coordinating national data collection on the SDGs, including on SDG 16.
Most chapters point out that the format and writing style of their report was not well suited for advocacy.	✓ This first phase showed how critical it is for TI-S to also involve its Communications Team in the initiative, especially in the drafting of regional and global reports. At national level, given the limited capacity of the TI-S Communications Team, the Team could provide guidance to communication staff in regional chapter leads, who could in turn guide communication staff in chapters of their region.
	✓ It will be important for the next 'generation' of parallel reports to harmonize its look and feel and to adopt a snazzier format (e.g. ensuring that all report focus on a subset of 5 specific, prioritised recommended reforms).
2. Methodology	
In more developed settings, the SDG Agenda might not be a 'priority' and therefore a methodology on SDG 16 may be less relevant in such settings. Furthermore, since VNRs are not binding, SDG 16 parallel reports may have limited impact only, in some contexts.	✓ Monitoring SDG 16 is only one of many possible uses of the tool. Beyond its 'SDG 16 framing', this tool has the potential to become TI's 'flagship methodology' for providing an evidence-based snapshot of a country's overall integrity system, akin to the function previously served by the (now defunct) National Integrity System (NIS) studies.
	✓ The tool also provides a readily available monitoring methodology and data source for several TI global/regional projects as well as for TI's two thematic priorities – 'dirty money' and political integrity.

There is unanimity on the fact that scoring and rankings always work well for advocacy. However, current scoring as captured by the Legal Scorecards can be misleading, as it focuses only on the quality of the legal framework and does not take into account 'reality on the ground'.	✓ TI-S should explore options for converting open-ended questions on implementation / compliance into close-ended questions scored on the basis of universally relevant criteria, as used for other questions on the legislative and institutional framework.
There was no time to undertake a peer review of the methodology when the tool was first developed, given the time pressure to make the tool available to chapters in time for the HLPF in 2017.	✓ TI-S should undertake a comprehensive peer review of the revised methodology (after including scoring for questions related to implementation/compliance), involving both external experts and TI-S staff on regional/global projects, to ensure that it reflects the most up-to-date 'good practices' in each policy area.
3. Capacity and resources	
At TI-S level, the lack of internal visibility of the tool beyond the Research & Knowledge Team, as well as the lack of integration of this initiative in other teams (incl. in global and regional projects), have been important weaknesses of the initiative until now. As a result, there is a large degree of ignorance among staff in the Secretariat about how the tool is being used across the movement, what the regional leads are doing, etc. Given the current absence of staff dedicated to and responsible for the SDG work, this situation is particularly pressing. The current setup is not suitable for the consolidation and scaling-up of this initiative.	✓ The consolidation and scaling-up of the SDG 16 parallel reporting initiative will require better knowledge management and coordination at TI-S level. ✓ There is a need for dedicated staffing resources at Secretariat level to make chapters aware of the tool, support them during the research phase, check-in regularly with regional leads, coordinate inter-chapter advocacy efforts in strategic fora, and develop a cohesive and joined-up global and regional advocacy strategy. ✓ To this end, TI-S staff consulted in the course of this evaluation recommended that this initiative be mainstreamed in other teams (i.e. beyond the Knowledge and Research Team) at Secretariat level, with concrete responsibilities allocated to various teams. Project funds could be pulled to eventually support fully dedicated staff (see recommendation below on funding). Moreover, one additional full-time staff would be needed to lead coordination with chapters, relevant TI-S staff and external partners. Funding this 'coordinator position' would require the mobilization of additional resources.
Insufficient funding has delayed the publication of several national and regional reports in time for the HLPF in 2019, including a regional report for the Lusophony, an updated regional report for the	✓ When allocating research-related financial support, TI-S should prioritize chapters with more limited staffing capacities (i.e. less than 7 staff: analysis of the staffing capacity of participating chapters shows that 75% of those who have at least 7 paid staff were able to complete the assessment in-house, without having to hire a consultant).

Americas, and a comprehensive regional report for Asia (i.e. on all four targets). Furthermore, while all chapters say they want to repeat the SDG 16 parallel assessment on a regular basis, only half of survey respondents indicated that it was likely that their chapter could mobilize the necessary funding. For the rest, a minimum level of financial support from TI-S appears to be essential.	✓ For TI-S to mobilize additional financial resources for this initiative at global/regional level, two options could be envisaged: (1) TI's regional and global projects which overlap with thematic areas covered by the tool could contribute funding to the parallel reporting initiative as a means to gather the evidence base for their own objectives (if needed, these projects could mobilize additional resources for a 'research/data collection component'); (2) Alternatively, a funding proposal for a global project on SDG 16 parallel reporting could be developed, which the EU or the OECD could be interested to fund.
Without a robust quality assurance mechanism in place, the research conducted by chapters was found to be of varying quality.	✓ TI-S should develop an online template to facilitate chapter reporting on the questionnaire. Such a template would 1) allow TI-S to provide feedback as the data is received, rather than waiting for the entire assessment to be completed to start providing this feedback; 2) help harmonize the look and feel of individual reports, as chapters would be asked to provide specific inputs in set spaces; and 3) allow for the regular updating of the global SDG 16 data warehouse (by being directly linked to it), after necessary quality assurance. ✓ Given the critical need to dedicate more manpower for quality control and support during the research phase, global/regional project staff could be made responsible for quality assuring sections of the assessment relevant to their specific thematic focus.

2. Introduction

2.1 Genesis of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool

Demand for this tool grew out of a movement-wide consultation held with chapters in 2016, led by the former SDG Advocacy Manager, which revealed a strong perceived need to 'do something' on the new SDG Agenda. Chapters felt it was important to seize the opportunity presented by the inclusion of four corruption-related targets under SDG 16 (namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery in all their forms, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms) in order to drive the anti-corruption agenda forward in key national, regional and international fora.[4]

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[4] BTOR, Matt Jenkins, HLPF, NY, 10-14 July 2017.

During this consultation, 'parallel (shadow) reporting[5]' on the progress made so far by individual countries in achieving the relevant anti-corruption targets under SDG 16 was determined to be the most appropriate format for chapters' engagement. The intention was to use the information generated by the parallel reports at global, regional and national levels:

- **At global level**, this information was to be used to complement Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) tabled annually at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), to 'comment on the official country report, calling attention to inaccuracies, omissions, or weaknesses' and to 'scrutinise the story of progress being told through official monitoring'[6];
- **At regional level**, the development of regional parallel reports was envisaged 'to support national advocacy efforts' by stimulating competition between various countries in a given region[7]; and
- **At national level,** the information generated was to feed into governmental SDG planning and reporting processes taking place on a rolling basis in each country, to help 'develop national targets and indicators tailored to [countries'] specific circumstances', and to 'provide specific recommendations and next steps in order to generate momentum for the anti-corruption movement'.[8]

Figure 2 maps the broader SDG 16 monitoring landscape and shows TI's niche with the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology:

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[5] The terms 'shadow report' and 'parallel report' have been used interchangeably by chapters and by TI-S. For sake of consistency, this report uses the term 'parallel report'.
[6] SDG 16 parallel reporting tool, Introduction, p.3
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.

Figure 2: The SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology in the SDG 16 monitoring landscape
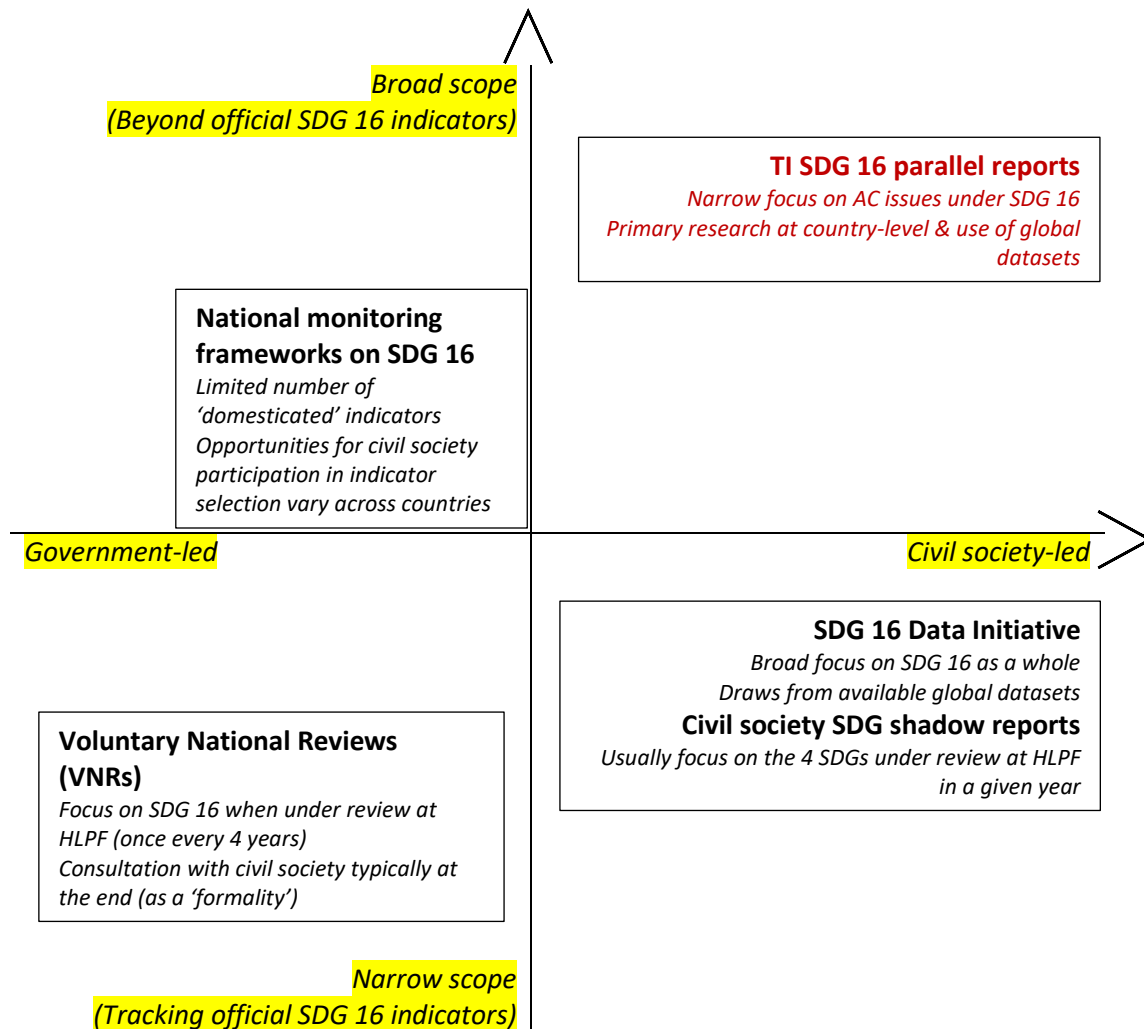
It is in this context that the Research and Knowledge Team took the initiative to develop the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool. The Team did so in close consultation with TI Chile and six other chapters in the Americas[9] who volunteered to produce a first regional parallel report in time for the HLPF in 2017, where several governments of the region were presenting a VNR.

With very limited time and resources at hand (see section 2.2. below), the Research and Knowledge Team, with support from a consultant, proceeded to quickly develop a research questionnaire, which was then reviewed by participating chapters during a three-day workshop. The revised questionnaire was successfully piloted in the seven Latin American countries, and a regional parallel report for the Americas, as well as national reports for six other countries[10], were launched at the HLPF in 2017.

The initial ambition of the team that launched the SDG 16 parallel reporting initiative in 2017 was to publish a global parallel report in 2019, when SDG 16 was scheduled for 'in-depth review' at the HLPF. However, these plans were put on hold due to lack of financial resources (as the ACTION grant used to

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[9] Namely, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru.
[10] Namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Jordan, Nigeria and Portugal.

fund a number of national parallel reporting exercises was not solely dedicated for this purpose; it was used to support several other areas of work of TI), internal discussions around the sustainability of this initiative and its contributions (or lack thereof) towards TI's strategic priorities, and more generally, ongoing deliberations around the relative prominence to be given to the SDG Agenda in TI's work.

Overall, in a period of two years, chapters in as many as 43 countries have used the tool, and at least four of those have repeated the assessment a second time (see Table 2).

Table 2: Roll-out of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool over time and across regions/countries

Region	Countries*	2017		2018		2019	
		National report	Regional report for the Americas	National report	Asia Regional report on SDG target 16.10	National report	Regional report for West Africa
Asia Pacific (12)	Afghanistan	X					
	Bangladesh	X			X		
	Cambodia				X		
	Maldives	X			X	X (update)	
	Mongolia				X	X	
	Nepal				X		
	Pakistan				X		
	Papua New guinea				X		
	Solomon Islands				X		
	Sri Lanka			X	X		X (update)
	Vanuatu				X		
	Vietnam				X		
Middle East and North Africa (3)	Jordan	X					X (update)
	Palestine			X			
	Lebanon			X			
Americas (11)	Chile		X			X (update)	
	Brazil		X				
	Argentina		X				
	El Salvador		X				
	Costa Rica		X				
	Peru		X				
	Honduras		X				
	Dominican Republic			X			

Region	Country						
	Venezuela			X			
	Mexico			X			
	Bahamas			X			
Sub-Saharan Africa (11)	Nigeria	X		X		X	
	Benin			X		X	
	Togo			X		X	
	Uganda			X (coordinated by Nigeria)			
	Kenya			X (coordinated by Nigeria)			
	Ghana			X (coordinated by Nigeria)		X	
	Liberia			X (coordinated by Nigeria)		X	
	Sierra Leone			X (coordinated by Nigeria)		X	
	Angola			X (coordinated by Portugal)			
	Equatorial Guinea			X (coordinated by Portugal)			
	São Tomé e Principe			X (coordinated by Portugal)			
Europe (6)	Armenia			X			
	Greece			X			
	Hungary			X			
	Netherlands					X	
	Portugal	X					
	Spain			X			
TOTAL number of countries that used the tool each year		**2017: 13 countries**		**2018: 33 countries**		**2019: 12 countries**	

*Note: *Countries highlighted in yellow received a mini grant from TI-S (see section 2.3 below).*

2.2 Objectives of this review

The review aims to assess the strengths and weaknesses of TI's SDG 16 parallel reporting tool as a research and advocacy tool. More specifically, the review aims to evaluate the tool in three respects:

1) **Its advocacy impact to date:** What has been the impact of the findings and recommendations generated by the tool so far, at country, regional and global level?
2) **Its methodology:** How effectively is the research methodology fulfilling the tool's main aims?
3) **Its capacity requirements:** What resources (time, human, incl. skills/ expertise, and financial) are required for the effective and sustainable use of this tool by the TI Movement?

Since a Knowledge Management system has yet to be developed for this initiative, an additional important function of this review is to provide a first consolidated snapshot of achievements and challenges faced so far. There exists no impact matrix or monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework to capture in a systematic way the successes and failures of this initiative. TI-S therefore has a very limited understanding of how chapters have been using this tool for advocacy, fundraising and partnership-building. This is even more the case where chapters have assumed regional leadership roles: with little systematic and regular exchanges between these chapters and TI-S, the latter was often unaware of actions taken by these regional leaders.

While a systematic results framework has not yet been developed for the tool, figure 3 proposes a visualization of the various 'categories' of results that could be achieved by this tool, and that this review seeks to take stock of:

Figure 3: Tentative results framework for TI's SDG 16 parallel reporting tool
(with each category of results applicable at national, regional and global levels)
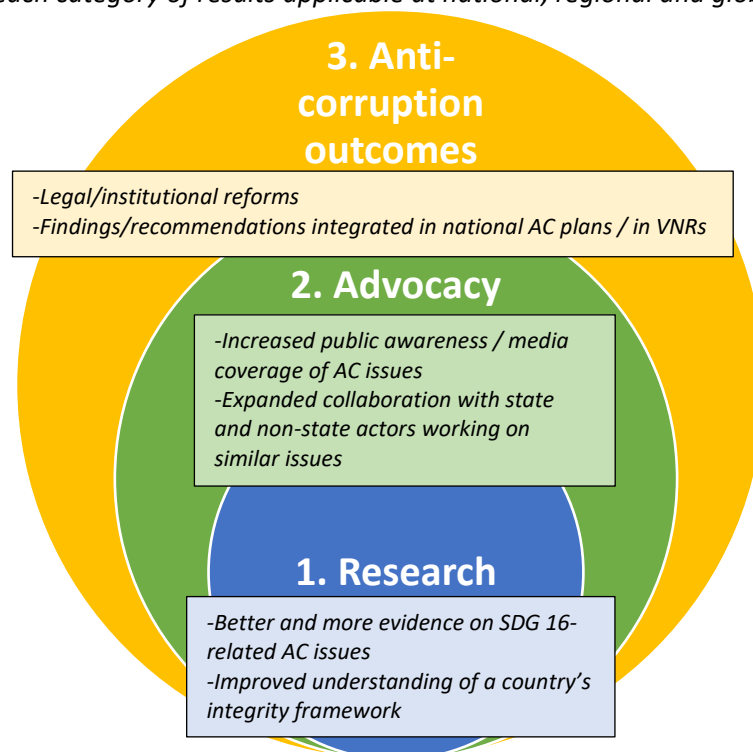
3. Methodology for the review

This review is based on the experience of TI chapters (or TI national contacts) in 43 countries who have used the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology as a whole, or parts of it, since 2017.

A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect information, namely:

- An **online survey for chapters** (made available in English, French and Spanish) completed by 26 chapters (see Table 3) i.e. 60% of the 43 countries where the tool has been used so far (survey questionnaire available in Annex 1);
- An **online survey for external partners** (at country, regional and global level; survey made available in English, French and Spanish) completed by 5 external partners at country level[11] and 2 global partners[12] (survey questionnaire available in Annex 2);
- **Follow-up semi-structured interviews** (1-2 hours each) conducted in English and French with 24 stakeholders, namely: 13 chapters (see Table 3), two external partners of TI[13] and nine TI-S staff[14], based on standardized interview guides (guides available in Annex 3);
- A **desk review** of relevant TI-S and chapter documentation (e.g. methodological guidance provided to chapters, national and regional SDG 16 parallel reports produced by chapters, media coverage of the initiative, relevant TI-S strategic documents and evaluation reports, TI-S budgetary reports, staffing structure in chapters, information on TI-S regional/global projects, etc.)

Table 3: Geographical distribution of survey responses received from and interviews conducted with chapters

	Region	Chapter/National contact	Responded to survey	Was interviewed
1	Asia-Pacific	Afghanistan	X	X
2		Bangladesh	X	X
3		Cambodia	X	
4		Maldives	X	X
5		Sri Lanka	X	X
6	MENA	Jordan	X	X
7		Palestine	X	
8	Africa	Benin	X	
9		Kenya	X	
10		Nigeria	X	X
11		Togo	X	X
12		Uganda	X	

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[11] Reseau Anti-Corruption du Togo (civil society); Greece's General Secretariat Against Corruption (government); National Police of Benin (government); Anti-Corruption Commission of Benin (government); Financial Intelligence Unit of Afghanistan (government)

[12] UNDP and the SDG 16 Data Initiative

[13] The TAP Network and the SDG 16 Data Initiative

[14] ██
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13	Latin America & Caribbean	Argentina	X	
14		Bahamas	X	X
15		Brazil	X	
16		Chile	X	X
17		Costa Rica	X	
18		Dominican Republic	X	
19		El Salvador	X	
20		Honduras	X	
21		Mexico	X	X
22		Peru	X	
23	Europe	Portugal	X	X
24		Greece	X	X
25		Hungary	X	X
26		Spain	X	
TOTAL			26	13

It is noteworthy that only three global external partners of TI responded positively to requests (sent out by this evaluator) to complete a short online survey and to be interviewed. This low response rate may in fact reaffirm a key finding of this review regarding the fact that the initiative so far has only had limited success in terms of engaging with external audiences and partners at global/regional levels.

As for the similarly low response rate to the online survey for external partners *at country level*, the fact that only 5 national external partners completed the survey needs to be interpreted with caution. Chapters were asked to disseminate the survey link to national partners on their own initiative, and neither TI-S nor this evaluator has any means of tracking the extent to which chapters did follow-up on this request. As such, this low response rate could also be due to a lack of outreach on the part of chapters.

Given such limited external stakeholder validation, it is important to note that the achievements reported in this review mainly reflect the perspective of national chapters.

4. Assessment of advocacy impact

4.1 Relevance of the tool in the context of TI's Strategy 2020

The relevance of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool to further TI's vision until 2020 is elaborated upon in TI's Strategy 2020, 'Together Against Corruption', which provides the strategic framework for TI's collective ambition and actions for the years 2016-2020. In the Foreword to the Implementation Plan of this Strategy, TI's then Managing Director, Cobus de Swardt, underlines the positive momentum for TI's 2020 Strategy generated by the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) –' the global framework for development until 2030' – with its stand-alone governance goal: "As we embark on this Implementation Plan and the strategy behind it, the UN SDGs have just been adopted, obliging all countries, north and south, wealthy and poor, to stop corruption as a priority. With this as a backdrop, our movement's efforts are more relevant than ever around the world."

In its Implementation Plan, TI-S commits to "lead[ing] the TI movement's ongoing global advocacy on the critical role of anti-corruption in sustainable development. We will assist chapters in making the UN

SDGs – which will affect the lives of billions of people around the world – a relevant advocacy tool in their country [...]. In addition, TI-S will ensure that anti-corruption remains a core aspect of the 2030 development agenda and that leaders are held accountable for achieving Goal 16, with its focus on just, peaceful and inclusive societies."[15] Developing an SDG 16 parallel reporting tool can be seen as a direct contribution by TI-S towards this aim.

Furthermore, the Implementation Plan underlines TI-S's role in 'support[ing] our TI global priorities with action-oriented research', while 'innovat[ing] in our methods of creating knowledge and in designing research for action'[16]. Once again, the development of an SDG 16 parallel reporting tool can be seen as an important contribution in this regard. By offering a new source of actionable data on a wide range of corruption-related issues, the tool represents a valuable innovation complementing other TI 'flagship' research products such as the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB).

More specifically, the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool has the potential to contribute to the achievement of the following priorities and goals in TI's Strategy 2020 (Table 4):

Table 4: Priorities and Goals in TI's Strategy 2020 that can potentially be advanced by the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool

Strategic priorities	Change	TI-S Contribution	How the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool can support the achievement of the strategic priorities / desired changes
Priority 1: People and Partners			
1.a Creating demand for accountability and empowering action	People around the world denounce corruption and take increased action to confront it by demanding transparency, accountability and integrity	"We will assist chapters in making the UN SDGs [...] a relevant advocacy tool in their country [...] TI-S will ensure that anti-corruption remains a core aspect of the 2030 development agenda and that leaders are held accountable for achieving Goal 16 [...]" (Implementation Plan, p.9)	Provides interested groups/partners/leaders/the general public with a sound evidence base on various aspects of corruption and anti-corruption
1b. Engaging partners and inspiring leaders	Growing number of key partners and leaders drive anti-corruption progress		
Priority 3: A Stronger Movement			
3a. Sharing knowledge of what works against corruption	An increased body of knowledge of the interventions to stop corruption is readily available	"While continuing to offer demand-driven knowledge products to our stakeholders, we will diversify our range of	Provides an innovative way to create knowledge around SDG 16 by examining the enabling conditions for relevant SDG 16 targets to

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[15] Implementation Plan, p.9
[16] Implementation Plan, p.12

|		contributions and innovate in our methods of creating knowledge and in designing research for action [...]" (Ibid., p.12)	be achieved (vs. SDG 16 indicators mainly measuring outcomes)
3b. Building a sustainable movement	...with a special focus on promoting leaders within the TI movement...	"we will invest in and nurture anticorruption leadership in the TI Secretariat and across the global movement, including by providing support to chapter-led global initiatives." (Ibid., p.12)	Provides an opportunity to interested chapters to lead (sub-) regional SDG 16 parallel reporting initiatives, with coordination support from TI-S
3c. Ensuring the relevance of the movement	Transparency International serves as the point of reference on corruption issues in key countries, notably the G20 countries, BRICs and MINTs	"TI-S will lead on strengthening TI's presence in [...] global and regional advocacy hubs" (Ibid., p.13)	Positions TI as a source of rigorous, credible and globally comparable non-official data on one third (4) of the 12 targets under SDG 16 (i.e. those related to anti-corruption)

4.2 Chapter motivations in using the tool

 Globally, chapters across a diversity of national contexts find the framing of the tool around SDG 16 as strategic and effective – in terms of a) pushing their advocacy agenda at country level, b) providing a high-profile platform for TI to advance its global priorities on 'dirty money' (SDG target 16.4) and political integrity (SDG target 16.5) and to be on the forefront of global debates on SDG 16 implementation and its ripple effects across other goals, and c) opening fundraising opportunities.

Chapters had a variety of motivations for conducting the assessment – some were 'new' chapters (e.g. Bahamas, Afghanistan) looking for a research product to baseline the anti-corruption situation in their country and strengthen their visibility and credentials when launching it. 'Older' chapters welcomed the opportunity of taking part in a global movement initiative and of bringing various research pieces into one coherent product, in the form of the narrative report.

But the common thread between all chapters was the appeal of the SDG framing for anti-corruption advocacy (Figure 4). All chapters interviewed noted that the parallel reports were essentially using the SDG language as 'a peg to hang TI's advocacy coat on'. The fact that the tool goes beyond the narrow understanding of corruption captured by official global SDG target 16.5 (on bribery), and instead provides a holistic overview of anti-corruption progress in various policy areas, was found by chapters to be a major value-added of the tool for their advocacy. Using the SDG framing brought legitimacy and entry points to policy discussions chapters were already engaged in.

Figure 4: *What motivated your chapter to use this SDG 16 parallel reporting tool? Select all reasons that apply.*
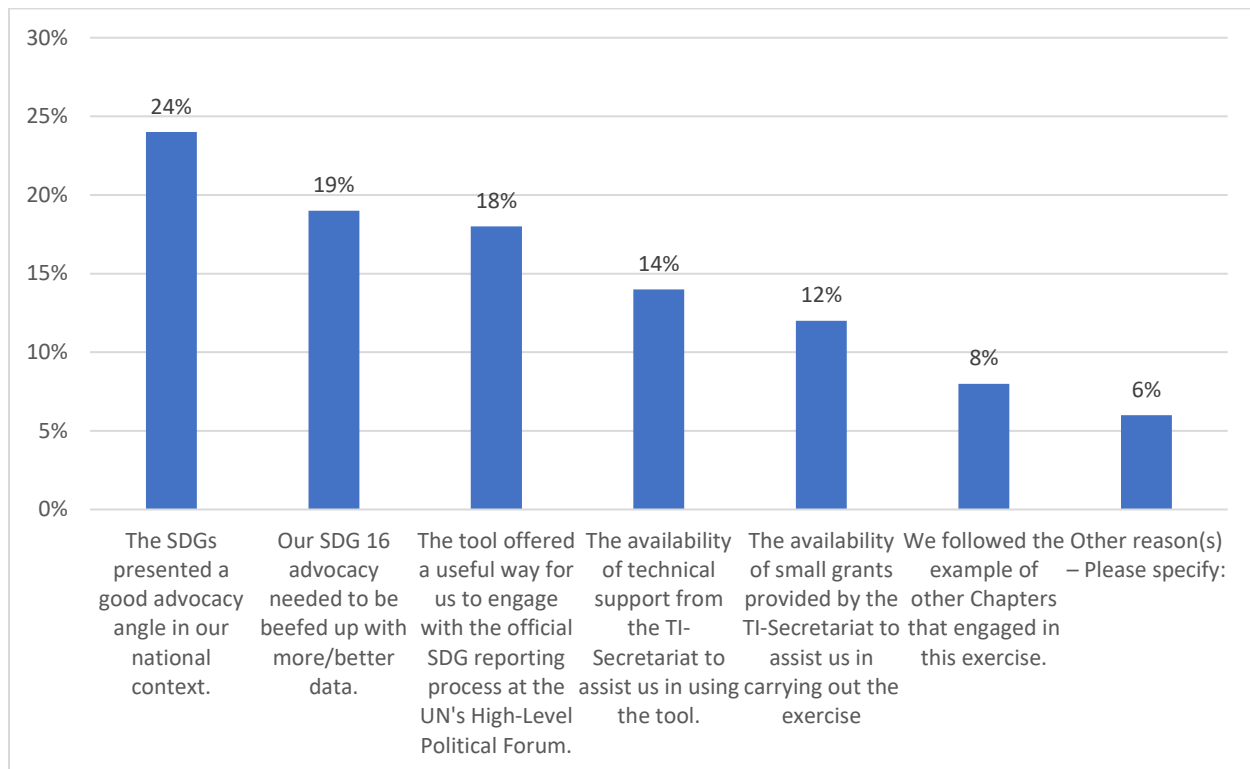
Note 1: *Respondents could select multiple answer choices. Percentages therefore represent the share of a total of 85 choices selected.*
Note 2: *Among 'other reasons', one chapter said they used the tool 'to obtain ideas on how to integrate SDG 16 in our new chapter strategy 2020-2022'.*

The appeal of the SDG framing for anti-corruption advocacy was especially high in environments with limited civic space. TI Hungary, for instance, explained that 'using the language of SDG 16 and displaying certain forms of government malpractice as a violation of international norms clearly gave some impetus, even though only in a humble form, to our presence, and also helped in amplifying our tone.' Similarly, TI Maldives explained that since the UN was already 'in that [SDG] space', it made it less sensitive for the chapter to frame its anti-corruption work using the same language.

In Asia, chapters saw the adoption of a dedicated target (16.10) on Access to Information under SDG 16 as an opportunity to amplify their advocacy around this issue, which has long been a priority in the region. When introduced to the tool at a regional workshop on SDGs, chapters unanimously agreed that the production of comparable national data on the state of access to information in the region would enhance their advocacy. In the words of the TI-S staff who coordinated this regional report, it was exceptional that all chapters (11) in the region participated, including three from the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), as it is usually difficult to engage some of them in similar regional initiatives: "This just proves that they really felt this report would be useful to them."[17]

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[17] Comparatively, only six chapters (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) contributed to the regional report providing an assessment of anti-corruption agencies in the region, and interest in conducting NIS assessments was much lower, according to TI-S staff working on the region.

This being said, some chapters did note that the SDG Agenda is 'competing' against other high-profile international agendas that have greater resonance in their national context. TI Honduras, for instance, explained that the Open Government Partnership features more prominently than SDG 16 in the transparency and anti-corruption debate. Meanwhile in more developed settings, some chapters (e.g. Chile, Portugal) noted that in their country, the SDG Agenda is primarily perceived as an Agenda 'for poor countries' which should inform their country's international development policies, and as such has more limited influence over domestic policymaking.

4.3 Impact and achievements attributed to using the tool, as reported by chapters

> **Even with limited resources, advocacy at country level generated positive outcomes for several chapters, mainly in terms of raising their visibility and reputation as producers of robust and credible data and analysis on SDG 16, which remains hard to find at country level. In particular, several chapters have established (or strengthened) important new connections with a range of SDG 16 constituencies across government, civil society, and the private sector.**

In interviews, most chapters described the SDG 16 parallel report as the first attempt in their country to generate data on SDG 16 and to present loopholes and areas in need of improvement *based on evidence* (in most countries, national SDG 16 monitoring mechanisms had not yet been established at the time of launching the SDG 16 parallel report). As explained by chapters, this robust evidence base generated by them helped raised their profile domestically vis-a-vis other NGOs, the media and the government. It contributed to building a positive working relationship with governments in support of the SDGs, and made it possible for chapters to have more in-depth bilateral conversations with national authorities about specific policy areas than had previously been possible (Figure 5).

A number of specific achievements reported by chapters (most of which have not been validated by external stakeholders) are listed in Table 5, from anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by the government or by civil society and/or other non-government actors, to an increase in media coverage of SDG 16 and its corruption-related targets, to new partnerships established for chapters, to an increase in visibility and strengthened reputation for chapters, to new fundraising opportunities, or more generally, a better understanding of the anti-corruption framework at national level to help identify priority areas for action by chapters. It is noteworthy however that no chapter reported their parallel report having influenced the narrative on SDG 16/anti-corruption in their government's VNR. This is likely because chapters started the research too late, so by the time their recommendations were ready for the HLPF, governments had already finalized their VNRs.

The national context should not be underestimated as an important factor affecting achievements. In contexts where civic space was very limited, such as Hungary and the Maldives, chapters have not yet been able to publicly disseminate their report's findings, which obviously limited the potential for impact. Meanwhile in other contexts, national circumstances and/or opportune timing facilitated the uptake of some recommendations, such as in Greece where the end of the bailout programme created an environment where the political leadership was receptive to the types of recommendations made in the report, or in Chile where the launch of the report coincided with the formulation of the country's OGP plan. The already mobilized Chilean OGP constituency provided a receptive platform for the report's recommendations, some of which made it into the OGP plan.

Figure 5: *What was achieved by your Chapter in publishing an SDG 16 parallel report and in advocating for the implementation of its recommendations? Select all that apply.*
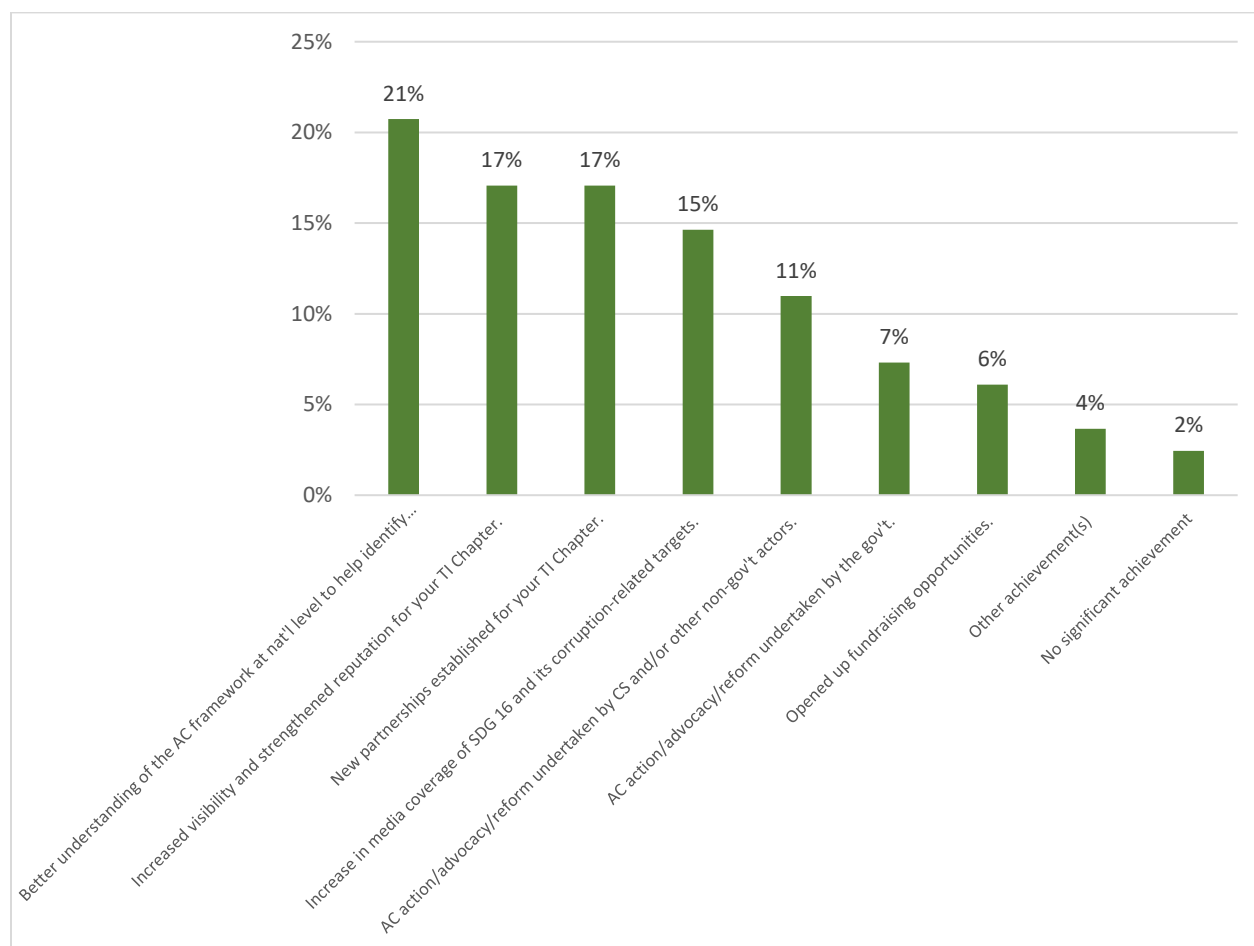
Note: *Respondents could select multiple answer choices. Percentages therefore represent the share of total choices selected.*

Table 5 – Examples of achievements reported by chapters (in survey & interviews)

Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by the government	
Greece	As Greece's bailout programme was coming to an end, the fight against corruption was identified by the political leadership as a key requirement for the country's economic recovery. This created a unique opportunity for TI Greece to advocate in favor of SDG 16, and the General Secretariat Against Corruption included several recommendations from the parallel report into the country's new national anti-corruption plan (2018-21).
Sri Lanka	After hearing a presentation on the report and its methodology, the Sustainable Development Council invited the chapter to work with it and the national statistical office in developing a national SDG 16 monitoring framework with 'localized' indicators on corruption-related issues.
Chile	The chapter used the report's findings to advocate for a commitment on beneficial ownership to be included in the country's OGP plan. The

	commitment was included; this was the culmination of sustained advocacy efforts by TI Chile over the past few years.
Afghanistan	Further to TI advocacy around anti-corruption targets under SDG 16, the government started providing training on SDG monitoring to relevant ministries (Finance, Justice, Foreign Affairs, etc.) and oversight institutions. These trainings covered some of the report's findings.
Nigeria	After showing in the report the size of illicit financial flows and how these funds could instead contribute to poverty reduction, an MP attending Nigeria's presentation at the HLPF side-event on the parallel reports invited TI Nigeria (CISLAC) to present this research to a parliamentary committee working on a poverty reduction bill.
Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by civil society and/or other non-government actors	
Bangladesh	• The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, which includes 104 organisations across the country working on SDGs as partners, used four policy briefs produced by TI Bangladesh (who is a member of this platform) on the basis of the report's findings to engage the government on SDG 16 and related anti-corruption issues. • TI Bangladesh led the drafting of the chapter on SDG 16 in the SDG shadow report 2019 produced by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs
Afghanistan	Further to publishing the report, the TI national partner established and trained a network of 20 CSOs on how to use the anti-corruption targets under SDG 16 for anti-corruption advocacy across various sectors. This network of CSOs is now using the report to advocate for anti-corruption reforms.
Brazil	The chapter used the report's findings to input into the parallel report on SDG 16 as a whole being put together by a coalition of CSOs.
Palestine	Further to the publication of the report, a coalition from CSOs was formed to advocate for developing a national anti-corruption plan.
Togo	UNDP used the report's recommendations when developing its new programme on governance.
Increase in media coverage of SDG 16 and its corruption-related targets	
Bahamas	The results were highlighted by two of the country's leading newspapers (one published the entire scorecard) and on the national news on television.
Afghanistan	A video report on the launching event can be accessed via Integrity Watch Afghanistan's webpage and social media profiles here, here, and here, and a summary is online here and here. The videos have reached 47K and 50K people each and have been viewed more than 17K and 11K times each through the Integrity Watch Afghanistan's Facebook channel. In addition to social media coverage, the event was extensively covered by local media at the national level for example on 1TV news and Tolo News in Pashto and Dari.
Togo	The validation workshop organized by the TI national contact (ANCE) to validate the findings of the report before its publication received wide media coverage.
Spain	Multiple media covered the presentation of the report.

Palestine	Good media coverage of the press conference, with a particular focus on the right to access information.
Bangladesh	Extensive coverage and commentaries by both print and electronic media.
Costa Rica	Influential media covered the launching event.
New partnerships established for your TI Chapter	
Togo	Further to the publication of the report, the IMF met the TI national contact (ANCE) to discuss findings prior to their meetings with the government. The IMF ended up including four recommendations from TI's report into their own report, which carries much weight with the government.
Mexico	After the publication of the report, the chapter was selected by the Foreign Affairs Ministry to be one of the two CSOs on the national working group responsible for overseeing the implementation of SDG 16 (and 4 other SDGs).
Nigeria	• Established closer ties with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, which is responsible for producing the country's VNRs. • Used the report as a platform to participate in the official government delegations to the HLPF • Used the report to engage the African Union Committee on Anti-Corruption on SDG 16
Portugal	New partnerships establish with TI national contacts in the Lusophony.
Uganda	New collaborations established with the Financial Intelligence Authority, the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity and TI chapters in the region also working on parallel reports.
Kenya	Was able to engage the SDG Caucus, a group of non-state actors engaged in SDG advocacy; through this Caucus, engaged parliamentarians on education issues, while making reference to relevant SDG 16 anti-corruption targets.
Palestine	• Chapter was invited to join a national team tasked with developing an SDG16 implementation plan and progress report. • The anti-corruption commission become more open to engaging civil society in discussions around the new anti-corruption plan 2019-2021.
El Salvador, Costa Rica	Stronger partnerships established with other chapters in the region working on parallel reports.
Argentina	• Deepened the dialogue with the national authorities responsible for the adaptation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. • Chapter is working with the Network of Anti-Corruption Organizations (ROCC), a network of CSOs from all over the country led by TI Argentina, on the possibility of replicating the assessment at the subnational level.
Chile	Used findings to engage with the Comptroller General on UNCAC implementation.
Spain	Established a good rapport with the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda.
Increased visibility and strengthened reputation for your TI Chapter	
Afghanistan	• The launch of the report was attended by more than 100 participants from the government, international community and civil society. The

	Minister of Economy (whose ministry is responsible for SDG implementation) gave opening remarks. Officials from the President's Office also attended, as well as senior representatives from major donors (e.g. GIZ Country Director also gave opening remarks). • A presentation of the report was also made at the anti-corruption meeting of EU ambassadors in Kabul.
Bahamas	• As a new and small chapter, was able to use the tool to position itself as the first actor providing a broad view of the corruption/integrity situation in the country, across a wide range of different policy areas. • Bilateral meetings will be held with the Prime Minister and the Attorney General later in 2019 once the report is launched, to discuss the findings.
Togo	This first attempt to produce data on SDG 16 attracted considerable attention from government, development partners, civil society (Government had already submitted three VNRs to the HLPF, but none covered SDG 16)
Spain	The fact that the chapter was the only actor focusing on SDG 16 in such a detailed manner enhanced its relevance and visibility on the national scene.
Greece	• Presented the report's results at the Business Integrity Forum in Greece (Nov 2018), where a presentation by the anti-corruption agency on VNR data was followed by a presentation by TI Greece on the parallel report's findings. The following discussion on gaps between the two assessments generated a lot of interest within the private sector. • CSOs came to the launching seminar to get the data they lacked to conduct their own advocacy; other CSOs in the country continue to reach out to TI Greece for this specific reason.
Portugal	• Wrote an article (page 14) for the Portuguese Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDOs) Platform
Opened up fundraising opportunities	
Jordan	Embassies and donor organizations approached the chapter with regards to possible projects on the SDGs.
Sri Lanka	Further to seeing the report, USAID provided funding to TI Sri Lanka for a project on SDG 16, which aimed to promote the report's recommendations and to update the first report in time for the 2019 HLPF, among other activities.
Better understanding of the anti-corruption framework at national level to help identify priority areas	
Uganda	The assessment provided an opportunity to learn more about the issues of beneficial ownership.
Cambodia	The chapter was able to provide a detailed assessment of the draft law on access to information.
Spain	The chapter is currently conducting a detailed review of the report, for findings to be used to better focus the chapter's activities and projects on the most problematic issues detected by the assessment.
Hungary	TI Hungary has long been focusing on many forms of money laundering and the occurrence of illicit financial flaws, and the SDG 16 parallel reporting

	exercise strengthened the chapter's analysis and advocacy by applying an international framework on these issues.
Greece	The report's findings helped inform the chapter's advocacy around the 'new' area of access to information.

Even with limited resources, 58% of chapters say the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report was 'more or less the same' or 'larger' relatively to other campaigns carried out by TI chapters (Figure 6); meanwhile, 61% say the impact was 'more or less the same' or 'larger' relatively to other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors in their country (Figure 7).

Figure 6: *Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other campaigns run by your Chapter, would you say that it was larger, more or less the same or more limited than other campaigns carried out by your chapter?*

8%

42%

50%

■ The impact was larger than other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

■ The impact was more or less the same as other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

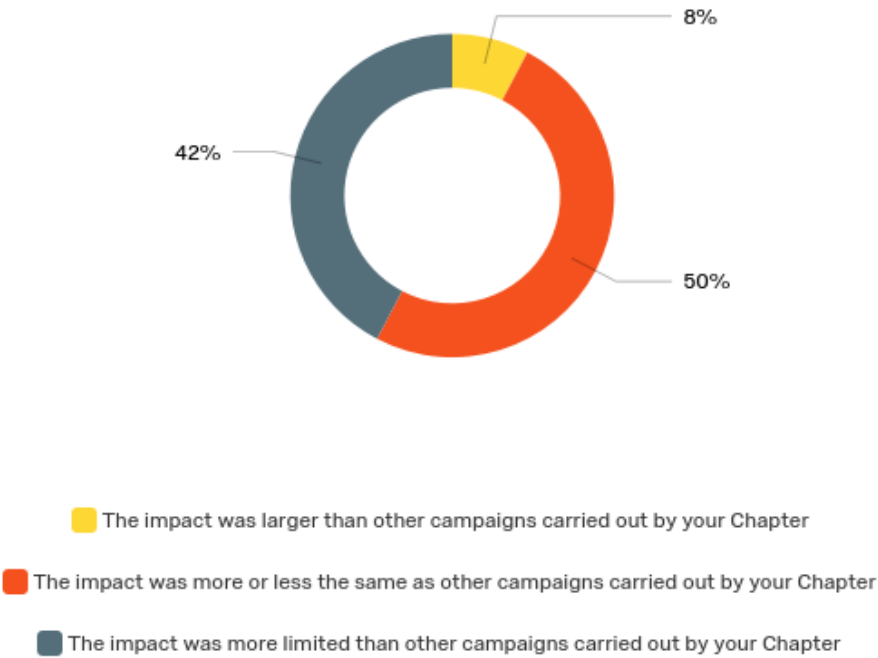■ The impact was more limited than other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

Figure 7: *Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors in your country, would you say that it was larger, more or less the same or more limited?*

23% — ⬛

42% — 🟨

15% — ◼

19% — 🟧

🟨 The impact was larger than other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

🟧 The impact was more or less the same as other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

◼ The impact was more limited than other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

⬛ Don't know
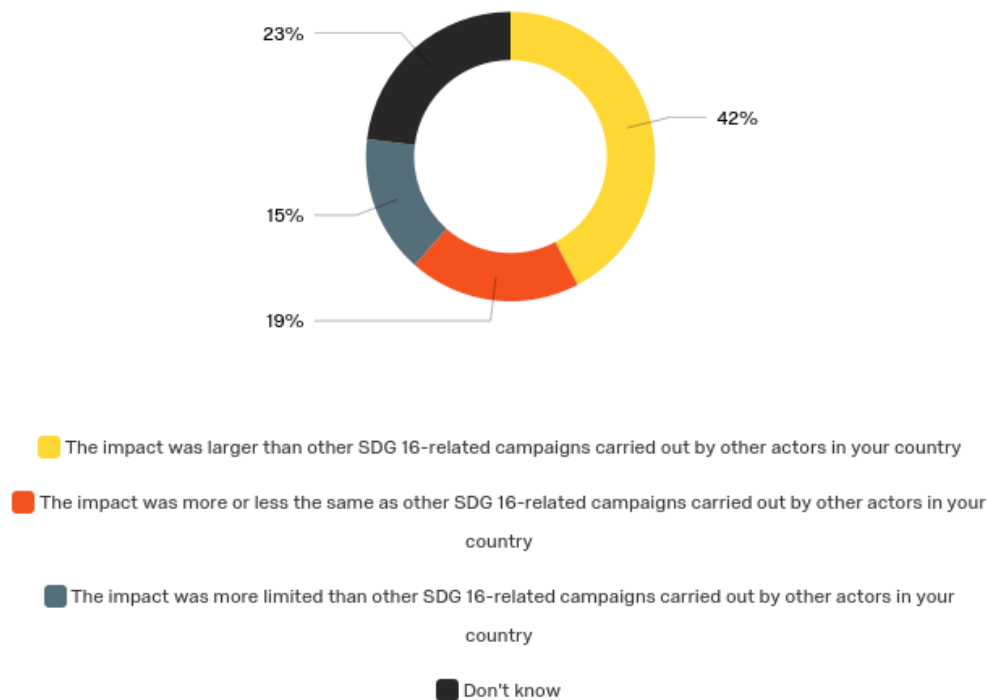
4.4 Format and writing style of parallel reports

Most chapters point out that the format and writing style of their report was not well suited for advocacy – but that did not prevent chapters from building fairly effective advocacy strategies.

Overall, the parallel reports were somewhat dry and technical – written for a policy audience rather than for the general public, which in some cases might have made the media less inclined to feature them. Even though the reporting template developed by the Research and Knowledge Team to guide chapters in drafting their report recommended producing a very brief narrative report and attaching the completed questionnaire as an annex, several chapters instead drafted lengthy reports, with long lists of recommendations. The TI-S staff and consultant involved in reviewing drafts submitted by chapters also noted that the writing skills of researchers who drafted the reports were highly uneven, both in terms of their fluency in the English language and in terms of their ability to adopt an effective writing style for advocacy. Some chapters (e.g. Hungary) also lacked funding for translating the report in local languages, which represented a significant obstacle to engaging in broad-based dissemination.

With very limited capacity in the Secretariat to help chapters convert their research reports into advocacy products (as mentioned above, no communications staff was involved and only one staff in the Research and Knowledge Team contributed, with no time officially allocated to this initiative), the advocacy potential of reports was not maximized.

Yet it should be emphasized that even if the final 'look' of parallel reports was not optimal for advocacy purposes, most chapters were still able to build fairly effective advocacy strategies around them, for instance by hosting events, engaging the media, or meeting relevant government entities bilaterally, as

listed in Table 5 above. Rather than focusing public attention on the reports themselves, chapters tended to use them as a 'pretext' for talking about a certain issue or for engaging a certain partner. For advocacy at regional and global level however, the quality of regional/global reports will be much more central to successful advocacy than it has been so far at country level.

More effective than reports for advocacy was the series of 'legal scorecards' produced for each country, depicting country ratings on the legal framework with infographics (Figure 8). These scorecards were the only harmonized communication product generated by the initiative. They were widely used in press releases and often picked up by the media. The national contact in the Bahamas, for instance, noted that "the production of a scorecard has greatly assisted our advocacy efforts in allowing for comparisons between countries and in providing objective evidence of where the country stands in respect to the SDG 16 targets."

Figure 8: Example of a 'Country Legal Scorecard'
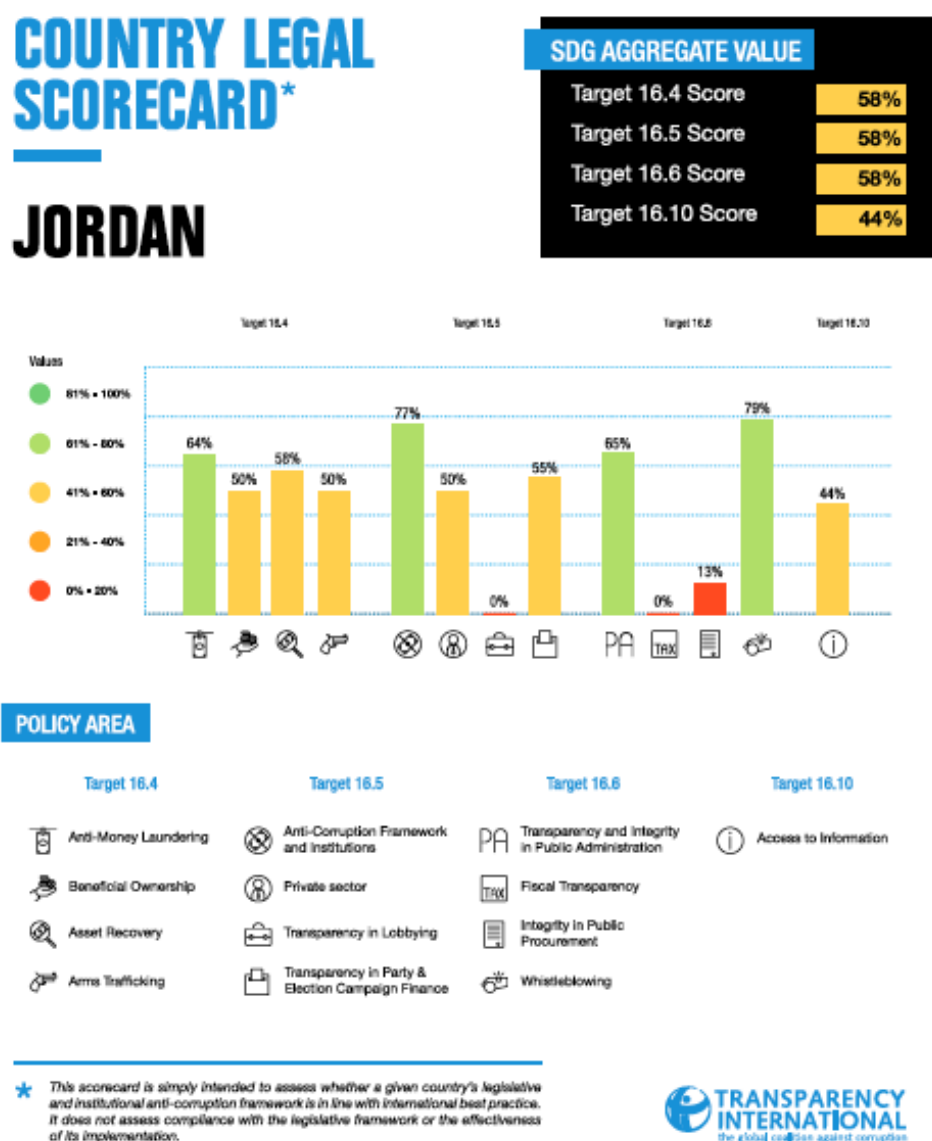
Key recommendations:
- ✓ **This first phase showed how critical it is for TI-S to also involve its Communications Team in the initiative, especially in the drafting of regional and global reports. At national level, given the limited capacity of the TI-S Communications Team, the Team could provide guidance to communication staff in regional chapter leads, who could in turn guide communication staff in chapters of their region.**

- ✓ **It will be important for the next 'generation' of parallel reports to harmonize its look and feel and to adopt a snazzier format (e.g. ensuring that all report focus on a subset of 5 specific, prioritised recommended reforms).**

4.5 Advocacy efforts at country level

At country level, chapters say they were only able to allocate minimal funding for advocacy activities. This has been a weakness of the approach as, once the report was published, chapters say they only had minimal resources and capacity to implement more elaborate advocacy strategies, after launching the report.

With limited resources allocated to this exercise, several chapters had to limit advocacy activities to a launching event and a press release and/or press conference. An effective, 'low-cost' advocacy strategy cited by several chapters, in contexts where relevant government entities expressed interest in the report, was to conduct 'advocacy visits' to various such entities to further discuss the findings and promote recommendations. Another (more costly) effective strategy used by some chapters to draw attention to the report even prior to its launch was to hold a broad-based consultation with relevant government and civil society actors to validate assessment results. In Nigeria and Togo for instance, such participatory validation exercises were found to be useful not only for advocacy, but also for identifying additional data sources that may not have been accessible to the chapter otherwise. Going forward, several chapters are hoping to maintain public attention on the recommendations made in their parallel report by systematically tracking their implementation: TI Sri Lanka, for instance, is currently developing an SDG 16 online tracker, along the lines of the Anti-Corruption Pledge Tracker developed by TI-S further to the 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit.

Key recommendations:
- ✓ **Ultimately, the tool assesses national-level frameworks, so the priority in terms of advocacy should continue to be to lobby national governments at country level.**

- ✓ **Countries reporting to the HLPF on any given year (where TI has a presence) should systematically produce an SDG 16 parallel report. Relevant parts of it could be employed in a targeted way to feed into TI's advocacy on the other 'non-SDG 16' goals that are subject to in-depth review at the HLPF each year (e.g. highlighting the relevance of a country's framework on access to information for climate finance transparency / SDG 13 on Climate Action)**

- ✓ **Chapters that have already produced a parallel report could produce short annual updates (2-3 pages each year), using the first assessment as a baseline against which to measure their countries' anti-corruption efforts until 2030. Such annual updates should not only summarize changes over the previous 12 months but also track the implementation of recommendations made in the initial report, to build pressure on government. For instance, an annual update could**

highlight that "chapter X made 12 key recommendations in its 2018 narrative report. By 2022, 2 had been fully implemented/achieved, 4 partially implemented/achieved and there was no progress on 6 of the recommendations." A traffic light system could be envisaged.

It is striking however that no chapter targeted opportunities to engage official government-civil society consultations around the drafting of the VNR, focusing instead on launching their parallel report at the time of the HLPF, where their country's VNR was presented. This is likely because chapters started the research too late, so by the time their recommendations were ready for the HLPF, governments had already finalized their VNRs. This lack of engagement with the official VNR drafting process at country level greatly limited the influence of parallel reports on official government reporting around SDG 16/anti-corruption in VNRs: no chapter reported any take-up of findings and/or recommendations made in parallel reports in their country's VNR.

Furthermore, there was no systematic effort by chapters to try to engage relevant agencies/inter-ministerial committees responsible for SDG implementation in their country. Similarly, no chapter attempted to engage the national statistical office with the data generated by their parallel assessment, even while statistical offices in nearly all countries coordinate national data collection on the SDGs, including on SDG 16. This might also have been a missed opportunity to influence the design of national monitoring systems on SDG 16.

Key recommendations:
- ✓ **For TI's parallel reports to have more influence over government reporting on SDG 16/anti-corruption in VNRs, assessments need to be completed earlier than July, when VNRs are tabled at the HLPF. Chapters should find out about the calendar for government-civil society consultations around the drafting of their country's VNR, and actively engage this process. It is also important for chapters to finalize their report earlier (say, in April each year) to give TI-S sufficient time to prepare its messaging and communication strategy for the HLPF, including the preparation of a global report, which requires reviewing all reports and distilling key themes/trends.**

- ✓ **Other important SDG constituencies that should be engaged more systematically by chapters include relevant agencies/inter-ministerial committees responsible for SDG implementation and monitoring in their country; national statistical office should also be engaged, given their critical role in coordinating national data collection on the SDGs, including on SDG 16.**

Advocating jointly with partners around the findings of the SDG 16 parallel report does not seem to have been a determining success factor. Less than half (40%) of respondents advocated with partners around the findings (Figure 9), including with existing civil society platforms (such as the Citizens Platform for SDGs in Bangladesh or the Network of Anti-Corruption Organizations (ROCC) in Argentina), other international actors (such as the Millennium Challenge Account office and the UNDP office in Togo), UNCAC-related platforms (Chile) and other chapters in a given region. Meanwhile, chapters who said they did not mobilize other partners to advocate jointly invoked resource constraints (such as in Kenya), a challenging political context which greatly restricted civic space (such as in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Hungary) or simply, the lack of a civil society constituency around SDG 16 in the country (such as in Spain or in Honduras, where the OGP Agenda is more prominent).

Figure 9: *Did your Chapter mobilize other partners/coalitions to jointly advocate around the findings and recommendations emerging from the assessment?*

40%   **60%**

■ Yes, we mobilized partners/coalitions to advocate jointly – Please list these partners
(including other TI national chapters):

■ No, our Chapter advocated on its own - Please explain why:

Chapters who did forge partnerships for jointly advocating around the results unanimously said these partnerships led to more impactful advocacy (Figure 10):

Figure 10: *Would you say that these partnerships led to more impactful advocacy than if your Chapter had advocated alone?*
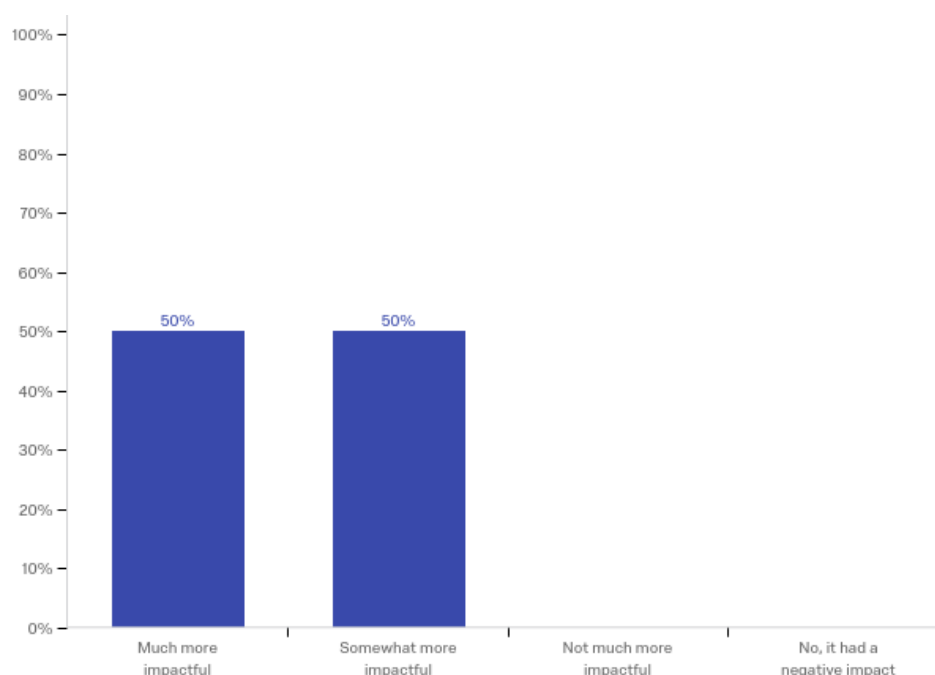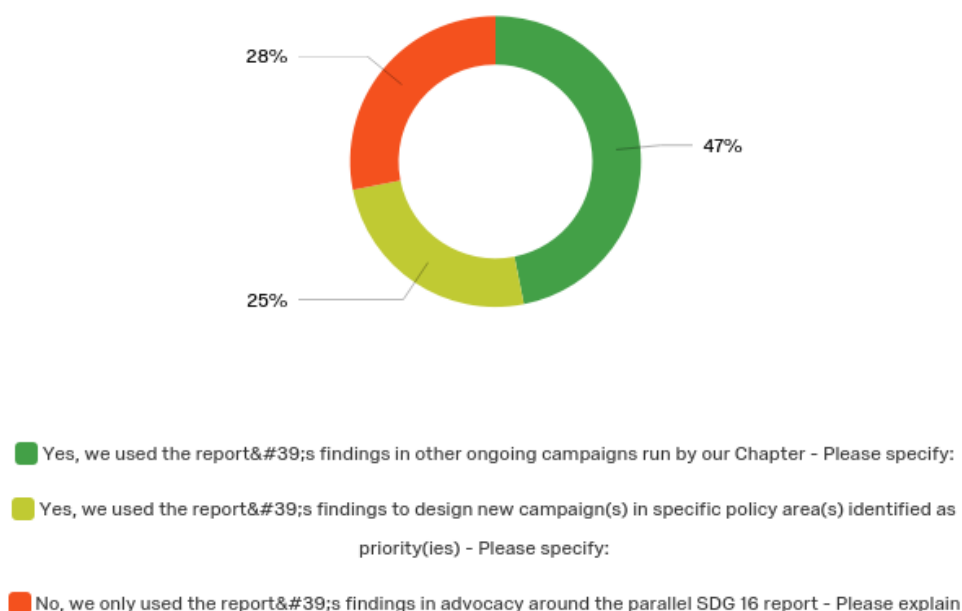

4.6 Use of findings in other campaigns carried out by chapters

Nearly three quarters (72%) of respondents say they used the findings generated by the tool in other (ongoing or new) chapter advocacy strategies on a range of topics covered by the tool (Figure 11).

For instance, TI Spain is currently reviewing its ongoing activities and projects in light of the report's findings to make sure that areas identified as problematic are well covered by the chapter's current work programme and advocacy agenda. In Benin, the report's findings on fiscal transparency and public procurement were used to inform a dedicated campaign on these issues. In Jordan, the chapter used the findings of the report to identify missing policy areas in the inaugural speech of the Prime Minister – and commented publicly about it. In the Bahamas, the assessment helped establish a baseline on beneficial ownership transparency, which is a new area of work for the national contact since the Register of Beneficial Ownership Act 2018 came into effect in December 2018.

The fact that the findings/data generated by the tool are used by chapters in advocacy beyond SDG 16, around specific policy areas covered by the tool, reaffirms another point made by chapters (see section 5.3) – namely that the value of the tool also lies in providing a comprehensive evidence-based overview of a country's overall integrity system, akin to the function previously served by the (now defunct) National Integrity System (NIS) studies.

Figure 11: *Did you use the findings/data generated by this tool in advocacy outside of the parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise, for example in your Chapter's advocacy around specific policy areas covered by the tool (e.g. anti-money laundering, fiscal transparency, etc.)? Select all that apply.*

■ Yes, we used the report's findings in other ongoing campaigns run by our Chapter - Please specify:

■ Yes, we used the report's findings to design new campaign(s) in specific policy area(s) identified as priority(ies) - Please specify:

■ No, we only used the report's findings in advocacy around the parallel SDG 16 report - Please explain

4.7 The value-added of regional reports for national-level advocacy

Where the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise was designed as a regional initiative (in Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa), it generated extra momentum amongst chapters that might not have carried out the assessment on their own. The prospect of engaging in regional-level advocacy has proven to be an important motivation for chapters who say regional reports make for effective advocacy tools.

The vast majority of chapters[18] interviewed (even those who had not participated in the production of a regional SDG 16 parallel report) say a regional approach to assessing the implementation of SDG 16, whereby many chapters from the same region produce national reports that are then consolidated into a regional report focusing on a few 'priority' policy areas in a given region[19], is worth pursuing.

As is often the case with regional initiatives, their virtue is – perhaps paradoxically – primarily their impact at *national l*evel. Indeed, it is not that the regional reports published in the Americas and in Asia have influenced regional bodies and/or international organisations, but rather that chapters were able to show their own government that other countries in the region were doing better, thus advancing their advocacy goals at national level.

Chapters who participated in regional initiatives would have hoped for more involvement from TI-S in crafting the messaging around regional reports, and in advocating around their findings and recommendations, once they were published.

Regional chapter leads say they only have limited capacities to carry out regional advocacy, and further support from TI-S would be needed. In the Americas, for instance, nobody worked on a coordinated regional campaign after the publication of the regional report, neither at the level of TI Chile who led the initiative nor at TI-S level. Two launching events were organized – one in Chile and one in Costa Rica – and there was no further advocacy after that. The separate website (hosted outside of the TI website) which was developed for this regional report proved 'extremely ineffective' in the words of staff at TI Chile, lacking active follow-up by TI Chile (whose staff had very limited capacity) and by the Communications Team at TI-S to disseminate the findings, publicize the initiative, monitor website traffic, etc. Similarly, in Asia, advocacy efforts at regional level were mainly limited to a launching event on Access to Information Day and a social media campaign around the launch, with no further action taken since then.

In (sub)-regions where such initiatives have not yet taken place, several chapters have expressed interest in taking part, or in leading, similar regional efforts, with support from TI-S.

For instance:

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[18] With a few exceptions: In Bangladesh, for instance, the chapter explained that the government's sensitivity to global rankings would likely reduce the impact of a regional report in the country. Also in the Maldives, the national context is so different from much larger neighboring countries in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh) that comparisons with neighbors are not meaningful and less effective for advocacy.

[19] The upcoming regional report for Africa, for instance, will focus on three policy areas of common relevance to countries included – namely anti-money laundering, beneficial ownership transparency and access to information. In addition to these three policy areas, the regional report will also review the national anti-corruption strategies in place in each country. Previously, the regional report for the Americas had focused on eight 'priority' areas for the region, namely: Access to information, public procurement, open government and open data, integrity in public administration, transparency in electoral campaigns and political parties, fiscal transparency, beneficial ownership transparency and asset recovery.

Asia: TI Sri Lanka expressed interest in leading a sub-regional report for South Asia, and TI Bangladesh for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. There is interest in the region in conducting a comprehensive SDG 16 parallel report, given the last report only covered SDG target 16.10.[20]

Americas: TI Chile, who previously led the regional parallel reporting exercise for the Americas, highlighted the strong interest from participating chapters to update their first assessment. Chapters in the region are planning to produce a second regional report in 2020.

Caribbean: The national contact in the Bahamas, first in the Caribbean sub-region to produce an SDG 16 parallel assessment, presented its report at a regional meeting organized by TI-S last year in Jamaica, and other chapters/national contacts in the sub-region (in Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana) expressed high interest in producing similar reports. Already at this meeting, four policy areas of relevance to the sub-region were identified for a future sub-regional report, namely whistleblower protection, access to information, beneficial ownership transparency and election campaign finance transparency. The national contact in the Bahamas would be ready to lead such a sub-regional reporting exercise if funding was available.[21]

Africa: Contrarily to other regional leads, the lead of the African report, in Nigeria, plans to engage regional and sub-regional institutions with the findings and recommendations of the report, when published. This regional lead in Nigeria (CISLAC) has a special status with ECOWAS and as such plans to engage in regional advocacy in West Africa by targeting this sub-regional governmental body. At African Union (AU) level, CISLAC also plans to engage the AU Advisory Board on Anti-Corruption. In the near future, CISLAC is keen to coordinate the publication of an SDG 16 parallel report that would cover the entire continent.

Europe: As explained by TI Hungary, 'the more we can embed our efforts and findings into a Central and Eastern European context, the more efficient the advocacy will be'. It was therefore suggested to produce a sub-regional report for the four Visegrad countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) or the wider CEE countries.

Back in 2018, a proposal was also made by the TI-EU liaison office in Brussels to conduct a parallel report on how EU institutions are faring on the four corruption-related targets of SDG 16 (this was to coincide with the progress report to be made by the EU at the HLPF in 2019 on EU efforts related to the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 16.) This report would have built on the ongoing EU Integrity Study 2.0, which focuses on the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the EU, and would 'complement our current work around money and politics, anti-money laundering and access to information.'[22]

Lusophony: TI Portugal has established an 'Anti-Corruption in the Lusophony Network' constituted by activists, academics ad NGOs in nine Lusophone countries. After the publication if its own SDG 16 parallel report, TI Portugal started engaging local partners in these countries (several of which do not yet have a TI presence yet) to encourage them to publish similar reports. The intention was to call attention

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[20] TI Cambodia, for instance, registered their interest as follows: "We are interested in the full SDG 16 parallel reporting, not just SDG 16.10, if funding is available."
[21] If not from TI-S, the national contact in The Bahamas noted that the US Embassy in the Bahamas could be interested in funding such a sub-regional parallel reporting exercise in the Caribbean.
[22] BTOR from staff at TI-EU liaison office in Brussels

to transnational corruption in the Lusophony, with a specific focus on anti-money laundering measures. Applying a very cost-effective model, TI Portugal successfully partnered with Portuguese universities and mobilized PhD/master student volunteers from Lusophone countries studying in Portugal to conduct the research. After training them on the methodology, these students conducted the research as part of their course work, with technical support and quality control provided by TI Portugal. So far, with this approach, TI Portugal has been able to support three countries scheduled to launch an SDG 16 parallel report soon: Sao Tome e Principe (report to be launched in 2019) as well as Angola and Equatorial Guinea (both reports to be launched in 2020).

Key recommendations:
- ✓ **The production of *short* regional reports zooming in on a subset of policy areas of common relevance in a given region and drawing on examples and case studies from national parallel reports should continue to be supported by TI-S.**

- ✓ **Given the strong interest expressed by several chapters to lead (sub-)regional initiatives, TI-S regional advisors could work in tandem with (sub-)regional chapter leads to support such initiatives.**

4.8 Limited use of findings in advocacy by TI-S at global level

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The impact of global advocacy around SDG 16 parallel reports (which so far has mainly consisted in holding side-events at the HLPF) has been negligible and probably lower than other comparable campaigns by TI. Little has been done with the wealth of data generated and there was never a clear strategy about how the national parallel reports would drive forward TI's global SDG advocacy aims. Chapters are calling for more engagement by TI-S in this area, stressing the critical effect of global advocacy carried out by TI-S in enhancing their country-level advocacy.

This evaluation is aware that a Global Advocacy Review[23] carried out in October 2018 recommended no global advocacy effort or role by TI-S on the SDGs ("Chapters engage where politically salient.") However, interviews with chapters, TI-S staff and external partners carried out for this evaluation, as well as comments provided by chapters through the survey, suggested otherwise. Chapters are calling for more engagement by TI-S in support of their SDG 16 parallel reporting advocacy, explaining how global advocacy carried out by TI-S is critical in amplifying their country-level advocacy. Meanwhile, TI-S staff and external partners emphasize the strategic opportunities offered by the SDG Agenda for TI-S to promote its anti-corruption agenda, and the central role that TI-S can play in making sure that the global anti-corruption commitments made under SDG 16 do not fall off the radar of countries unable (or unwilling) to report on them.

So far, however, global advocacy around SDG 16 parallel reports has been minimal. Both TI-S staff and chapters converge in their assessment of HLPF side-events on parallel SDG 16 reports so far, describing them as 'missed opportunities' to reach target audiences. They deplore their last-minute organization and the absence of any promotional documentation prepared for such events (e.g. flyers, short policy brief, etc.) which makes it difficult for chapters to contact their government delegation ahead of time

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[23] Enhancing Transparency International's Global Advocacy, October 2018, May Miller-Dawkins and Katy Southall https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ouraccountability/FINAL_for_publication_Enhancing_TI_27s_Global_Advocacy_October_2018.pdf

and to encourage them to attend. As a result, stakeholders who had attended such events noted the same echo-chamber effect: "It felt like CSOs were just talking to each other, with like-minded UN staff and staff from other international organizations."

Aside from the limited impact of advocacy conducted at the two annual HLPF side-events held so far, other opportunities to profile TI's work in this area at global level have yet to be leveraged by TI-S. Since several other influential global actors are using the SDGs as a strategic frame to promote their agenda, the use of a common language around SDG 16 could facilitate TI's engagement with these actors.[24] Furthermore, no action has been taken to harness TI's existing partnerships with organizations dedicated to promoting SDG 16, such as the SDG 16 Data Initiative, which produces a global shadow report on SDG 16 every year, and the TAP network, which promotes 'spotlight reporting' by civil society. These two organizations offer strategic platforms to showcase TI's parallel reports and promote their recommendations. Finally, no dedicated media outreach effort has taken place at global level.

> **The various global and regional project teams at TI-S have not yet started to use the data and findings from parallel reports in their own advocacy on the specific policy areas covered by the tool.**

As shown in table 6, the tool provides a readily available monitoring methodology and data source for several TI global/regional projects and for its two thematic priorities – 'dirty money' and political integrity – yet this valuable 'resource' has yet to be leveraged for this purpose. Two notable precedents are worth highlighting in this regard. First, the Asia-Pacific programme used the section of the tool on SDG target 16.10 to support ongoing regional advocacy on access to information, on the basis of data collected by 11 chapters of the region. This regional initiative was coordinated by a staff working for the Asia-Pacific programme, with support from TI-S's policy expert on access to information (for review and quality control of the 11 assessments). Similarly, the regional project Anti-Money Laundering in West Africa is currently using the section of the tool on anti-money laundering to encourage chapters in West Africa to monitor the quality of their country's integrity framework to tackle illicit financial flows in the region.

Table 6: Thematic overlap between the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology, other issue-/institution-specific TI methodologies and related TI global/regional projects

19 policy areas covered by the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology	Relevant issue-specific TI methodologies/tools	Relevant regional/global TI projects
Background		
1. National SDG implementation plan and monitoring process	N/A	

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[24] For instance, see this Review of Implementation of IMF Commitments in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (June 2019) (https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2019/06/03/Review-of-Implementation-of-IMF-Commitments-in-Support-of-the-2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-46960) which frames its "new framework (adopted in April 2018) for enhanced engagement on governance vulnerabilities, including corruption, that are judged to be macroeconomically critical" as "consistent with the emphasis of SDG 16 on ensuring 'e*ffective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels'.*" (p.32)

2.	Recent developments	TI [Global Corruption Barometer](#)	

SDG Target 16.4 – *Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*

3.	Anti-money laundering	TI [G20 "Just for Show?" methodology](#) (Reviewing G20 Promises on Beneficial Ownership)	AML Capacities in West Africa (Africa) Corrupt Money Flows (Global) Financial Transparency Coalition (Global)
4.	Beneficial ownership transparency	TI [G20 "Just for Show?" methodology](#) (Reviewing G20 Promises on Beneficial Ownership)	Leveraging the UK - Beneficial Ownership (Global)
5.	Recovery of stolen assets	*See note below*	SHAKARA (MENA)
6.	Fight against organized crime (optional)	TI [Global Corruption Barometer](#) (Perceived corruption/integrity of the police)	CRIMJUST (America/Africa)
7.	Arms trafficking (optional)	TI [Government Defense Index](#)	

SDG Target 16.5 – *Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*

8.	Experiences and perceptions of corruption	TI [Global Corruption Barometer](#)	Research Tools GCB & CPI (Global) ALAC SEE 2019 (Europe-SEE) Corruption's Impact on Women (Global)
9.	Anti-corruption framework and institutions	TI [National Integrity Systems assessments](#) TI [Anti-Corruption Agencies assessment methodology](#)	Asia-Pacific Programme – Component on anti-corruption agencies (Asia-Pacific)
10.	Private sector corruption	TI [Business Integrity Country Agenda](#) (BICA) TI [Transparency in Corporate Reporting](#) (TRAC) → *Not currently included but could be in a revised version)* TI [Exporting Corruption methodology](#) (on the enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention → *Not currently included but could be in a revised version)*	BICA Mining for Sustainable Development (Global) Land & Corruption in Africa (Africa) Women, Land and Corruption (Global) Legend - Land in Africa (Africa) REDD+ AFD (Africa)
11.	Lobbying transparency	*See note* below*	EC Integrity Watch (Europe)
12.	Party and election campaign finance transparency		

SDG Target 16.6 – *Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*

13.	Transparency and integrity in public administration		Land & Corruption in Africa (Africa)

		Women, Land and Corruption (Global)
	See note* below	Legend - Land in Africa (Africa)
14. Fiscal transparency		SHAKARA (MENA)
15. Public procurement		Integrity Pacts (Europe)
16. Whistleblowing and reporting mechanisms		Whistleblower Protection in Europe (Europe) Whistleblowing - EU Directive 2 (Europe)
SDG Target 16.10 – *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements*		
17. Protection of fundamental freedoms		
18. Access to information	*See note* below*	Global Consortium (OCCRP) (Global)
19. Open government data (optional)		Global Consortium (OCCRP) (Global)

*Note: *These sections refer to TI publications which set out principles and standards, but these publications are not research methodologies or diagnostic tools per se.*

Key recommendations:

✓ **TI-S should develop a global advocacy strategy on SDG 16 parallel reporting which connects global, regional and country level advocacy, and which leverages a range of global and regional platforms beyond SDG 16 and the HLPF.** In terms of platforms, TI-S should start by making the most out of the inter-governmental and civil society forums it is already engaged in (through existing global and regional projects), even if they are not specifically labelled as 'SDG 16 platforms', instead of looking for new alliances to disseminate the findings and recommendations the SDG 16 parallel reports. These include the EU and the EU SDG multi-stakeholder platform, the IMF, the G20, the World Bank, the G7, various UN platforms, the UNCAC conference of states parties and UNCAC civil society coalition[25], the Open Government Partnership, etc. Under the 'SDG 16 banner' specifically, existing partnerships with the SDG 16 Data Initiative, the TAP network and the Civil Society Centre's SDG Leave No-One Behind Initiative are important strategic entry points.

✓ **A global report should be published in time for the next HLPF (July 2020).** With 43 chapters having already produced (or currently producing) at least one SDG 16 parallel report, TI-S could aim to increase this tally to 50, which would be a legitimate number for a global report. While such a sample size remains too small and dispersed to tease out 'global trends' per se, a global report can still usefully highlight a number of 'key areas of concern' common to countries assessed so far, and aligned with TI's two priority work areas ('dirty money' and political integrity), including the following three[26]: 1) Transnational forms of corruption (the policy areas under 16.4 in the questionnaire), 2) Political corruption (the relevant policy areas under 16.5 and 16.6 in the questionnaire) and 3) Closing civil society space (the policy areas under 16.10 in the questionnaire). Another high-profile strategic event which could be targeted for the launch of such a global report is

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[25] Given that the SDG 16 parallel reporting questionnaire is closely aligned with UNCAC provisions, the same parallel report could eventually feed into both UNCAC reporting and SDG 16 reporting processes.
[26] As suggested by the TI-S staff and consultant who have been reviewing parallel reports so far

the Extraordinary General Assembly against Corruption convened by the UN, at the initiative of Peru and Colombia, and to be held in the first half of 2021, in New York.

✓ **Where possible, this global advocacy strategy could be supported by (and integrated in) the advocacy work carried out by relevant regional and global projects,** in order for the findings and recommendations of relevance to these various projects to be disseminated in the regional/global fora they are already engaging with.

✓ **TI-S should develop a simple web platform[27] to host all data generated by chapters in one place, visualize it graphically, enable comparisons with other countries and/or regional average, and track progress over time.** Such a publicly accessible database should allow for results to be filtered by policy area, by chapter and by region. Such a repository would also be valuable to the various policy staff working on global/regional projects, by giving them instant insights into the situation in 43 countries on say, whistleblowing or public procurement, which are not measured directly by the SDG framework, and therefore lack globally comparable metrics.

5. Assessment of the methodology

5.1 Key features of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool

The research questionnaire to be used for producing a parallel report uses **three types of questions:**

1) 66 questions pertain to the *de jure* legal and institutional framework → These questions are *scored*;
2) 61 questions (including 20 optional) pertain to the country's *de facto* efforts to tackle corruption, assessing the practice and compliance with important legislative provisions → These questions are answered with *brief narratives*;
3) Finally, 18 questions (including 8 optional) refer to country scores obtained on assessments and *indices produced by other civil society groups and international organisations*.

Chapters are ultimately free to use the tool as they see fit. They can be very 'light touch' by simply referring to relevant laws, or they can dedicate considerable time, such as by submitting freedom of information requests, interviewing government officials, etc.

So far, each country undertaking an SDG 16 parallel assessment has produced the following **two research outputs:**

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[27] A good model to draw from is the EuroPAM (European Public Accountability Mechanisms) database, which allows users to easily retrieve for any given country key quantitative and qualitative data, or relevant laws, on five accountability mechanisms. Similarly to the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology, the EuroPAM database is "a data collection effort that produces assessments of *in-law and in-practice* efforts to enhance the transparency of public administration and the accountability of public officials". Country profiles allow users to easily retrieve information on any one of five accountability mechanisms examined. For each mechanism, a brief narrative (three or four short paragraphs) is provided, and users can then choose to consult key quantitative and qualitative data, or relevant laws (these three types of data are easily accessed by clicking on separate tabs). In terms of visualization, a spider chart for each country displays its scores on each accountability mechanism, and shows how well the country is faring relatively to the European average.

1) A comprehensive report[28] summarizing findings and formulating recommendations; and
2) A Legal Scorecard (illustrated with infographics) depicting scores obtained on the first type of questions, highlighting areas of the legislative framework (and policies) that need to be reformed in order to create the robust anti-corruption system needed for the achievement of the SDGs.

The research methodology was developed with **two key principles** in mind:

1) The need for a 'broad but shallow' research tool that pulls together research findings scattered across different TI methodologies into a single, coherent research product: The parallel reporting questionnaire points out in the guidance section of individual questions where there is overlap with existing TI methodologies that chapters might have used already (see Table 6), and existing TI reports where the information required to answer questions could be found.
2) The need for a research tool that could be applied either in parts or comprehensively, depending on advocacy priorities at country level: In the guidelines, chapters are encouraged to be selective and strategic in the way they use the questionnaire: "Ultimately, the questionnaire is first and foremost designed as a tool to support chapters' advocacy. We recommend that chapter researchers dedicate more time to sections of the questionnaire most relevant to the chapter's priorities, and where you see windows of opportunity to effect change. These are the areas that you likely highlight in the narrative report. Areas less central to chapter activities can be answered more concisely.'[29]

5.2 Quality and user-friendliness of the methodology

The clarity of the research questionnaire – which provides clear instructions on how to interpret and answer the questions, as well as tips about where to find data – was praised by chapters.

As noted by TI Greece: "The methodology is coherent, robust and consistent […]. The questionnaire is detailed, organized and easy to use. It asks for answers through a variety of [sources] and as such captures a [well-]rounded overview of corruption and transparency." Chapters also praised the 'actionability' of the data produced, which was noted as particularly valuable "in countries like The Bahamas with very limited data on anti-corruption available from other sources." Interestingly, even while the accompanying guidance did encourage chapters to focus on policy areas that were most salient in their national context, most chapters tended to answer all questions in the questionnaire, even the optional ones. They could do so thanks to the clear and detailed guidance provided on how to score quantitative questions and how to respond to qualitative questions. It is noteworthy though that there was no time for a peer review of the methodology to be conducted when the tool was first developed, given the time pressure to make the tool available to chapters in time for the HLPF in 2017.

Key recommendations:
✓ **TI-S should undertake a comprehensive peer review of the revised methodology (after including scoring for questions related to implementation/compliance – as recommended below), involving**

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[28] A sample of chapter reports can be found here:
https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/search?q=sdg+shadow+reporting
[29] SDG 16 Parallel Reporting Handbook (an internal set of guidelines for chapters on how to use the tool), p.4.

both external experts and TI-S staff on regional/global projects, to ensure that it reflects the most up-to-date 'good practices' in each policy area.

✓ **TI-S should develop an online template to facilitate chapter reporting on the questionnaire. Such a template would 1) allow TI-S to provide feedback as the data is received, rather than waiting for the entire assessment to be completed; 2) help harmonize the look and feel of individual reports, as chapters would be asked to provide specific inputs in set spaces; and 3) allow for the regular updating of the global SDG 16 data warehouse (by being directly linked to it), after necessary quality assurance.**

5.3 Usefulness/relevance of the methodology

The methodology is found to be a 'very important and useful' counterweight to official reporting by governments through VNRs

Several chapters deplore the superficial analysis and general lack of evidence found in official VNRs submitted by their governments, and in this regard, they see SDG 16 parallel reports as playing a critical role in calling attention to issues that would otherwise go unnoticed.[30] This is evident from Figure 12 which shows that the vast majority of survey respondents found the tool to be 'very important and useful' compared to official reporting by governments through the VNRs.

Figure 12: *To what extent do you find this parallel reporting methodology to be important and useful, compared to official reporting by the government on corruption-related targets under SDG 16?*

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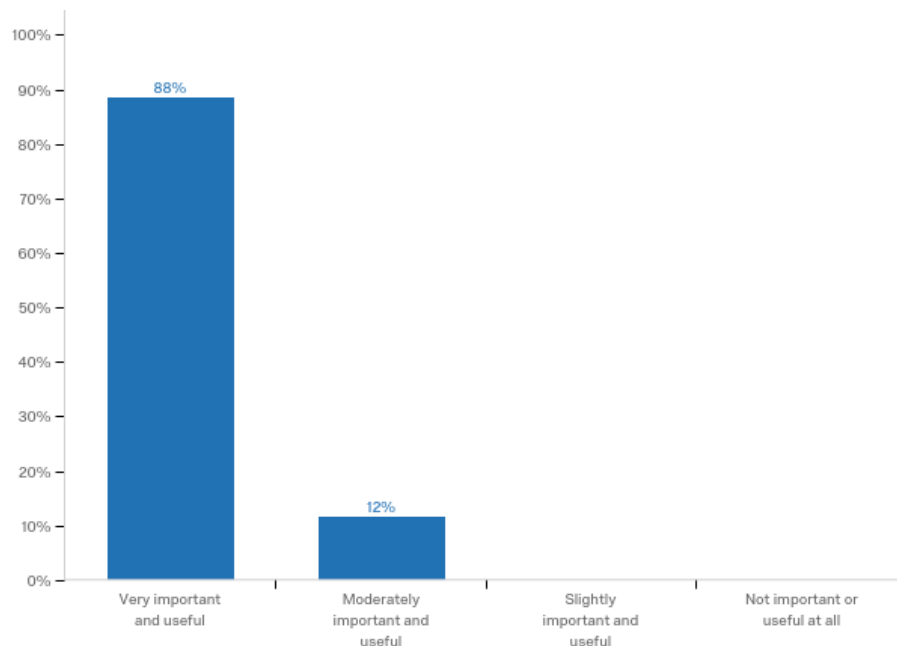
[30] TI Chile, for instance is preparing a campaign to this end, for the end of July 2019, after the presentation by the Chilean government of its VNR at the HLPF.

> **Beyond shadow-reporting, chapters are particularly appreciative of the methodology for the baseline it provides of the strengths and weaknesses of their country's overall anti-corruption framework, and for the actionable recommendations that can be formulated on the basis of the assessment. In this regard, several chapters say that this tool is much more useful to them than existing TI flagship tools such as the GCB and the CPI. The tool also gives chapters a 'docking station' that pulls together in one coherent assessment their various research products on specific policy areas/specific institutions.**

While most official SDG 16 indicators focus on *outcomes*[31], the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology rather considers the *background conditions and enabling factors* for progress on corruption-related SDG 16 targets. This is an important advantage of the parallel reporting methodology over the official SDG 16 monitoring framework, in that it helps identify 'what needs to be fixed' in order for targets to be achieved. It is also a significant value-added relatively to other SDG 16 parallel reporting methodologies – such as that of the SDG 16 Data Initiative – which stay much closer to the official framework, and therefore do not contribute much to the diagnostic.

For chapters, 'the tool isn't really about assessing the official targets', but using them to frame a broad, if somewhat shallow, assessment of a wide range of policy areas related to corruption – 'a sort of mini-NIS framed as an SDG 16 assessment'. The comprehensiveness of the tool's framework and its 19 policy areas was seen as an important counterweight to the narrow focus of SDG 16 on a very limited set of corruption-related issues. Chapters also welcomed the opportunity provided by the tool for 'pulling together in one assessment', and in a systemic fashion, research on specific policy areas or on specific institutions previously carried out by chapters. Using the SDG language was found to bring new urgency and attention to this research (Figure 13).

Figure 13: *To what extent was the methodology effective and useful for achieving the below 5 objectives:*

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[31] Overall, 6 of the 8 official indicators used to monitor the four corruption-related targets under SDG 16 measure outcomes, measure outcomes: 16.4.1 - Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars); 16.4.2 - Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments; 16.5.1 - Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months; 16.5.2 - Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months; 16.6.2 - Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services; 16.10.1 - Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months. The remaining two indicators could be classified as process indicators (16.6.1 - Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) and framework/input indicators (16.10.2 - Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information).

Figure 14
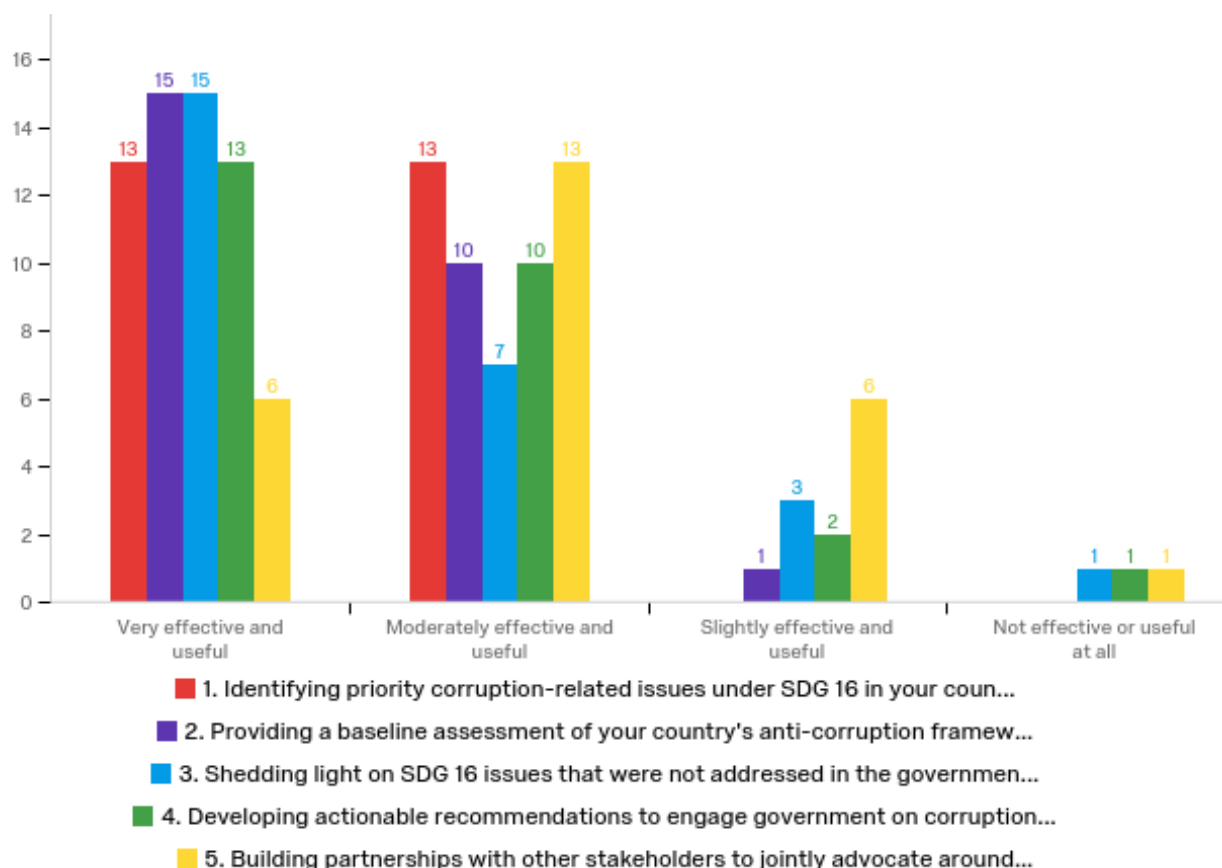
Chapters who had previous experience with the National Integrity System (NIS) studies appreciated the SDG 16 parallel reporting methodology for its user-friendliness: "With a few researchers working together over a period of only 1-3 months, this methodology can produce a pretty robust overall snapshot of a country's anti-corruption framework, which can subsequently be updated fairly easily on a regular basis." Compared to the NIS studies which typically take between one and two years to complete, the SDG 16 parallel assessment is much quicker and less labour-intensive – primarily because it includes less stakeholder consultation and validation and the research draws mainly from desk research. Some chapters also highlighted as an important advantage of this tool the fact that it goes beyond the institution-centric approach that underpins the NIS, which can be limiting given most corruption issues are affected by the interplay of several institutions.

Since TI no longer actively produces NIS assessments, TI staff and chapters saw this tool as filling a critical gap in available TI tools and research methodologies, which are mainly policy- or institution-specific. Currently, the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool is one of few TI tools dealing with corruption broadly understood – 'a sort of mini-NIS framed as an SDG 16 assessment.'

Figure 14 shows chapters' appreciation for the value-added of the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool when compared to other existing TI assessment methodologies. Several highlighted how this methodology was an improvement over the CPI and the GCB, as the scores are much more detailed and actionable and as such better received by governments.

Figure 14: *In your opinion, to what extent does this methodology duplicate other existing TI methodologies such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), etc.?*
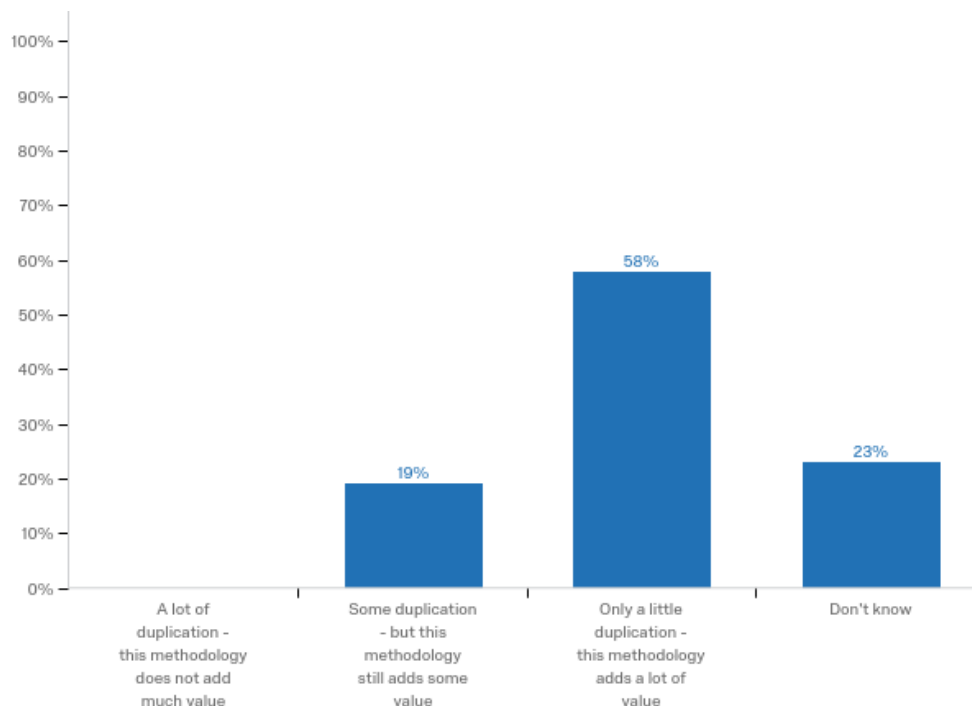
✓ **Key recommendation: Beyond SDG 16, this tool has the potential to become TI's 'flagship methodology' for providing an evidence-based snapshot of a country's overall integrity system, akin to the function previously served by the (now defunct) National Integrity System (NIS) studies.**

5.4 Scope

The tool's limited focus on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16 is generally found to be an advantage

When asked whether the tool should also assess anti-corruption issues that are important for the achievement of other SDGs (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education), instead of focusing only on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16, chapters and stakeholders highlighted a number of reasons why the current SDG 16 framing was judicious:

- This focus is in line with TI's core area of expertise, and reinforces TI's positioning in this critical area of the SDG Agenda;
- With its current focus on four SDG 16 targets, the questionnaire is already 150-questions long; adding sections on anti-corruption aspects relevant to other SDGs would further lengthen the questionnaire, and risks discouraging chapters from using it;
- Alternatively, fewer questions could be asked in each policy area, but this wider scope would come at the expense of the depth of analysis in each given area, which is likely to reduce the policy value of the tool;

- TI's has already developed a [Resource Guide on Monitoring Corruption and Anti-Corruption in the SDGs](#), which provides guidance on how to monitor corruption beyond SDG 16, with a focus on SDG 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 5 (Gender), 6 (Water & Sanitation) and 13 (Climate Action).

Even if this resource already exists, survey respondents almost unanimously supported the idea of expanding the scope of the tool to also capture other SDGs[32] (Figure 15). While this might seem surprising at first, it became evident in interviews that most chapters were unaware of the Resource Guide. TI-S might therefore want to further disseminate and promote this resource within the Movement, and perhaps even consider developing a separate assessment tool focusing on anti-corruption issues affecting the implementation of these other SDGs, but for the reasons outlined above, broadening the scope of the SDG 16 parallel methodology to include these other sectors risks diluting the value of the tool.

Figure 15: *Would you find it useful for the methodology to also examine anti-corruption issues that are important for the achievement of other SDGs (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education), instead of focusing only on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16?*

4%

96%

Yes - Please specify for which SDG(s) this would be useful in your country: No
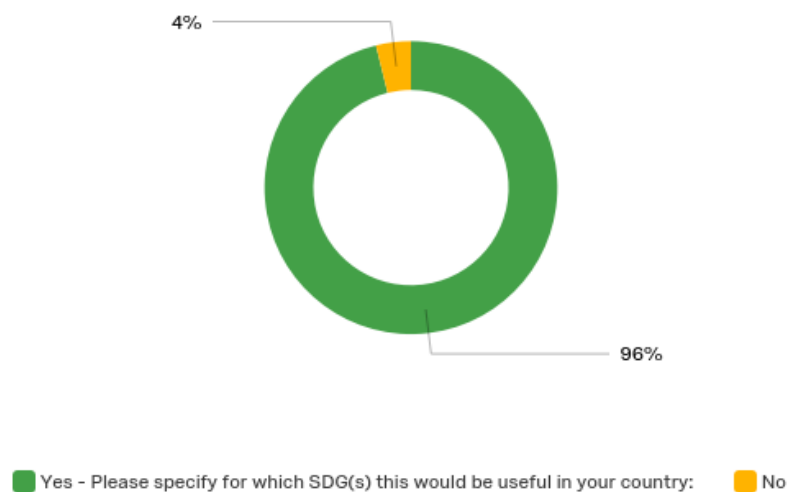
5.5 Scoring

There is unanimity on the fact that scoring and rankings always work well for advocacy. However, current scoring as captured by the Legal Scorecards can be misleading, as it focuses only on the quality of the legal framework and does not take into account 'reality on the ground'.

When developing this initial version of the tool, TI-S was under considerable time pressures to finalize the methodology in time for chapters in the Americas to be able to produce a first SDG 16 parallel report for the HLPF in 2017. Given the limited time and resources at its disposal, a pragmatic decision was taken by the Research and Knowledge Team to limit the scoring methodology to the legal and

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[32] When asked for which SDGs this would be most useful in their country, chapters most frequently cited SDG 3 (Health) – 8 selections; SDGs 1 (Poverty) and 4 (Education) – 6 selections; and SDGs 5 (Gender), 7 (Energy) and 13 (Climate Action) – 4 selections.

institutional framework, which was easier to develop based on other existing methodologies. Scoring implementation and compliance evidently requires much more research and pilot-testing: the 'criteria' to be used for scoring need to represent universal 'good practices', and those need to be researched and validated thoroughly through piloting in a variety of contexts.
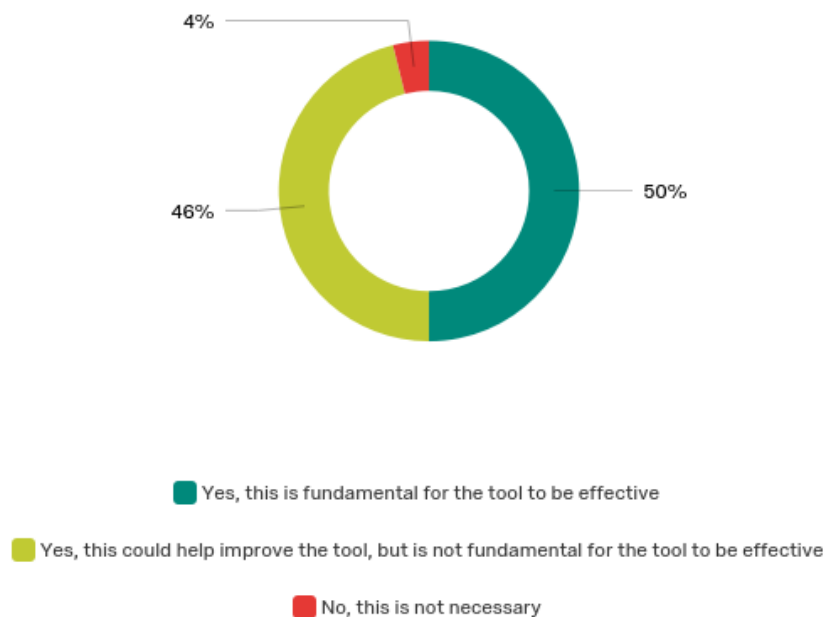
The Methodological Note for the SDG 16 parallel reporting tool clearly informs users of this aspect of the methodology and of future plans to also score questions on implementation and compliance: "Although it is being considered for future reporting rounds, a scored assessment of implementation and compliance with *de jure* anti-corruption provisions is currently beyond the scope of the 2017 shadow reporting exercise. Instead, the reports will seek to address the implementation of policies in practice in their narrative sections, including by highlighting exemplary cases and scandals, and, where available, by providing relevant statistics on compliance and enforcement."[33]

As shown by Figure 16, chapters almost unanimously (i.e. 96% of respondents, with 50% saying it is 'fundamental for the tool to be effective') expressed support for TI-S to move forward with its plans to invest further in the development of a scoring methodology for open-ended questions related to implementation and compliance.[34] As noted by TI Argentina, "It is urgent that the methodology incorporates the implementation dimension of integrity policies […], with an initial emphasis on the dimension of existing state capacities for the execution of legal mandates; [subsequently should be] incorporated [assessments] of the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation."

Figure 16*: Currently, the tool only assigns a quantitative score to the legal and institutional framework, while compliance and implementation issues are assessed through qualitative reporting (narrative). Would you recommend that a similar scoring system be developed to assess these implementation and compliance issues?*

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[33] See section on 'Limitations', p.3

[34] A number of relevant methodologies (developed by TI and other actors) that have already designed scoring methodologies on specific policy areas covered by TI's SDG 16 parallel reporting tool could be reviewed to this end, including TI's Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index (which assesses the effectiveness and enforcement of institutional and informal controls to manage the risk of corruption in defence and security institutions), Global Integrity's Money, Politics and Transparency indicators (which assess the implementation of legislation regulating political finance), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s methodology for assessing technical compliance with the FATF Recommendations and the Effectiveness of AML/CFT systems (which assesses the extent to which a country achieves a defined set of outcomes that are central to a robust AML/CFT system and the extent to which a country's legal and institutional framework is producing the expected results), TI's Assessment of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Asia Pacific (which assesses the performance of ACAs compared to internationally recognised principles and standards), and a Right to Information methodology developed by the Centre for Law and Democracy (to assess the quality of implementation of right to information laws in Pakistan.)

4%

50%

46%

■ Yes, this is fundamental for the tool to be effective

■ Yes, this could help improve the tool, but is not fundamental for the tool to be effective

■ No, this is not necessary

Chapters consistently underlined that scores are better suited than long reports for capturing public/media attention, but several found the Country Legal Scorecards to be problematic: while a strong legislative framework is indeed needed to effectively address corruption risks, it is in no way sufficient without independent institutions with adequate capacity and resources to implement it and to ensure compliance. The Legal Scorecards do not currently account for such implementation gaps.

This led TI Argentina and the national contact in Togo to remove the scores from their respective report altogether, as results in some areas were misleading, even 'threatening the position and work strategy of the Chapter', as explained by TI Argentina. This was also problematic in the Bahamas, which scored highly (88%) in the area of anti-money laundering, in spite of having recently been blacklisted by the EC due to high risks assessed in this area, because of ineffective implementation of otherwise robust legislation.[35]

It should be noted however that scoring implementation/compliance will inevitably increase the time needed by local researchers to complete the questionnaire, as there will be a need to conduct further research, interviews, and to physically 'try out' some institutional processes (such as submitting freedom of information requests) in order to determine the appropriate scores.

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[35] In October 2018, The Bahamas were re-rated and upgraded in their technical compliance with the FATF 40 Recommendations, from 18 to 30 out of 40 – which is exactly the same level of compliance as the USA has. It places The Bahamas "among the leaders in the world in having all the tools for one of the most effective and robust anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing regimes in the world." This however did not spare The Bahamas from being listed by the EC among high-risk countries for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) deficiencies. See https://thenassauguardian.com/2019/02/16/bethel-bahamas-to-push-back-on-eu-blacklisting/

✓ **Key recommendation: TI-S should explore options for converting open-ended questions on implementation/compliance into close-ended questions scored on the basis of universally relevant criteria, as used for other questions on the legislative and institutional framework. Pilot-testing of the proposed scoring methodology will be essential, to ensure that the scoring criteria are relevant in a diversity of contexts.**
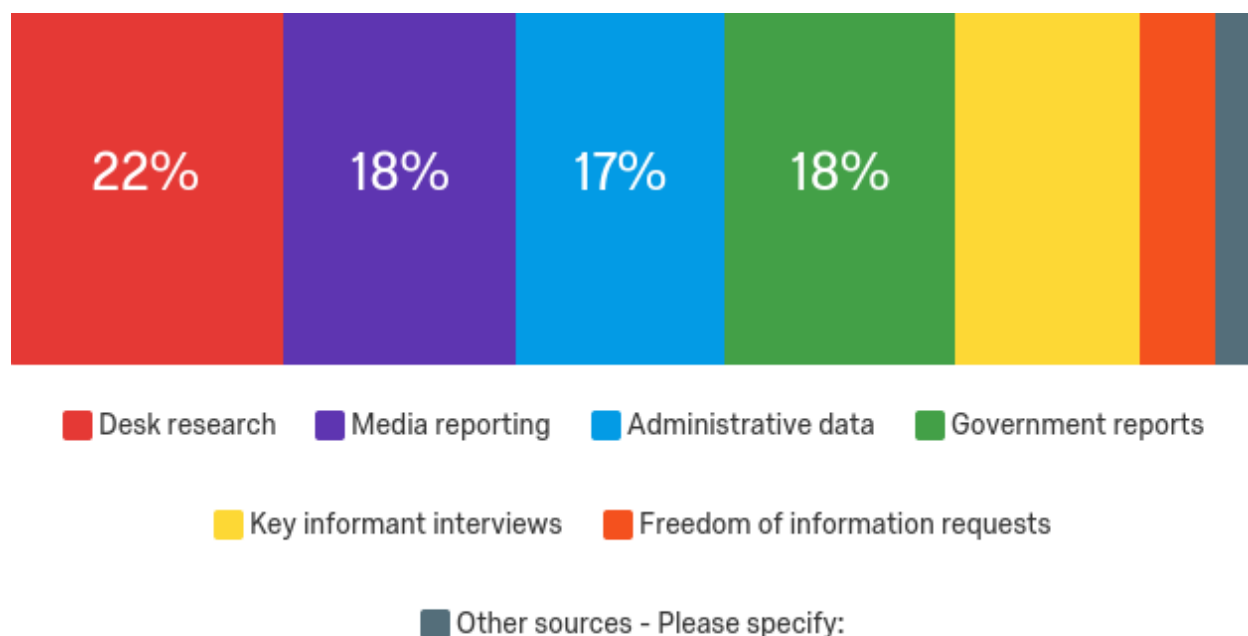
5.6 Data sources

A vast majority of chapters (89%) stated that accessing/obtaining the necessary data to complete the questionnaire was 'moderately challenging' (58%) or 'not challenging' (31%) (Figure 17).

Figure 17: *As you were completing the questionnaire, did you find it challenging to access/obtain the necessary data?*
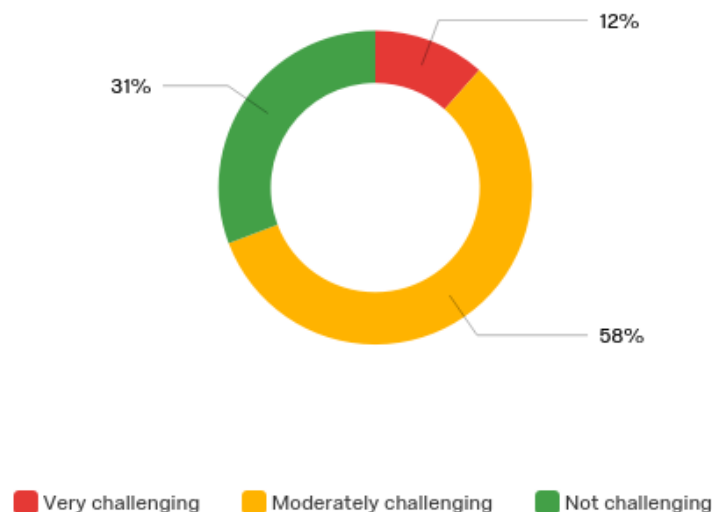
By and large, chapters are able to complete the questionnaire on the basis of readily available documentary sources (namely desk research, media reporting, administrative data and government reports, which together account for 75% of sources selected by respondents). More active efforts to access information, through key informant interview and freedom of information requests, accounted for only 21% of sources selected by respondents (Figure 18).

Figure 18: *Which sources of information did you use to complete the questionnaire? Select all that apply:*

| 22% | 18% | 17% | 18% | | | |

■ Desk research　■ Media reporting　■ Administrative data　■ Government reports

■ Key informant interviews　■ Freedom of information requests

■ Other sources - Please specify:

Chapters also appreciate the use of third party data sources for their ease of access, the additional background information they provide, and most importantly, for the added credibility they give to the assessment (which could otherwise be accused of being one-sided if based only on TI sources.)

6. Assessment of capacity and resources requirements

6.1 Financial resources invested in the development and roll-out of the tool so far

> **So far, this initiative has been fairly cost-effective, relatively to resources typically invested in the roll-out of other TI tools that have been projectized. Three quarters of chapters were able to conduct the assessment without additional financial support from TI-S.**

It is testament to the financial viability of the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise (in terms of research costs at country level) that only 11 chapters received a mini grant from TI-S out of the 43 who have embarked on the exercise so far. This means that a sizeable share (74%) of chapters was able to secure funding from other sources for this exercise, including from their own core funding/staff time, or from external donors (e.g. Social Watch Benin, TI's national contact in Benin). A number of chapters also drew on volunteer work, as was the case in Costa Rica and for Lusophone countries, which drew on students studying in Portugal. In terms of country-level advocacy costs, they have essentially been covered by chapters' own limited resources, which means that national advocacy activities around the SDG 16 parallel reports have tended to be minimal.

Over the past two years, roughly one fifth (19%) of Mini Grants under the Europe Aid ACTION Grant[36] was invested in the production of 11 national parallel reports and 2 regional reports (i.e. funding

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[36] The ACTION Grant (EUR 5,427,839 for the period 2016-2020) aims to support the 'open, accountable and participatory implementation' *of the SDGs* and to 'strengthen the TI movement's capacities to successfully carry out impactful collective and coordinated advocacy on the *critical role of anti-corruption in sustainable*

research and/or advocacy activities). Chapters typically received between EUR 3,000 and EUR 10,000 for national reports, and up to EUR 25,000 for coordinating regional work (see Table 7).

Table 7: SDG Parallel Reports funded by the Action Grant's Mini Grant Scheme

National Chapter	Total Value	Provided by TI (80%)[37]	Year	Purpose
Nigeria (CISLAC)	€24,440.00	€18,743.00	2017	Advocacy around the SDG shadow report which was compiled before the grant application
Chile	€31,182.00	€24,945.00	2017	**Regional** SDG Shadow Report
Bahamas	€10,000.00	€8,000.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Togo (ANCE)	€10,000.00	€8,000.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Spain	€6,800.00	€5,780.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Lebanon	€10,000.00	€8,000.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Hungary	€8,096.00	€6,476.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Greece	€6,000.00	€4,800.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Dominican Rep.	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Mexico	€3,000.00	€2,400.00	2018	National SDG Shadow Report
Nigeria (CISLAC)	€19,864.00	€15,891.00	2018	**Regional** advocacy for the implementation of SDG 16 (Ghana, Togo, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Kenya)
Netherlands	€12,369.00	€9,895.20	2019*	National SDG Shadow Report
Mongolia	€3,850.00	€3,003.00	2019*	National SDG Shadow Report
Total spent on SDG 16 parallel reports (2017-2019):	€148,601.00	**€118,933.20**		
As % of total Mini Grants provided to TI chapters (2016-2020)	€765,000.00 (80% provided to chapters: €612,000)	**19%**		

*Note: *Only two applications were received in 2019 for the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise, partly because this year, with the SDG Advocacy Manager leaving and limited capacity within Helpdesk to support chapters in using this tool, the Research and Knowledge Team did not send out any explicit encouragement to chapters to use the opportunity of the Mini Grants to carry out the exercise, as was done in previous years. This being said, nothing prevented chapters from applying for Mini Grants to fund a national SDG 16 parallel report. As a matter of fact, the application template sent out to chapters by TI-S does specifically ask chapters to specify 'How will the project contribute to the implementation of the UN SDGs and Targets?' and explicitly lists as one*

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development'. Under the ACTION Grant, the Mini Grants (EUR 612,000) – used to fund some SDG 16 parallel reports – are allocated for 'Network Strengthening' i.e. to fund 'coordinated action and advocacy'.
[37] Co-financing requirement of 20% set by the EC.

objective of the ACTION grant 'To increase the open, accountable and participatory implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other key development processes at the global, regional and national level' (Overall Objective 2).

Additionally, a ballpark figure for the support provided by the Helpdesk (Research & Knowledge Team) to this initiative over the past three years (2017-2019) can be estimated at EUR 60,000.[38] In total, therefore, the funding channeled directly to chapters conducting parallel reporting exercises (EUR 118,933) and the budget used by the Helpdesk to support this initiative (EUR 60,000) over the past three years adds up to roughly EUR 178,933.

6.2 Financial resources required by chapters going forward

Chapters say that the budget they need to undertake the assessment (including both research and advocacy work) is not excessive.

The vast majority of survey respondents say it is either 'more or less the same' (44%), 'smaller' (24%) or 'much smaller' (24%) compared to other advocacy activities carried out by their chapter (Figure 19).

Figure 19: *How big was the budget for this exercise (including both the research and advocacy work) compared to other advocacy activities carried out by your Chapter?*


Much bigger · Bigger · More or less the same · Smaller · Much smaller

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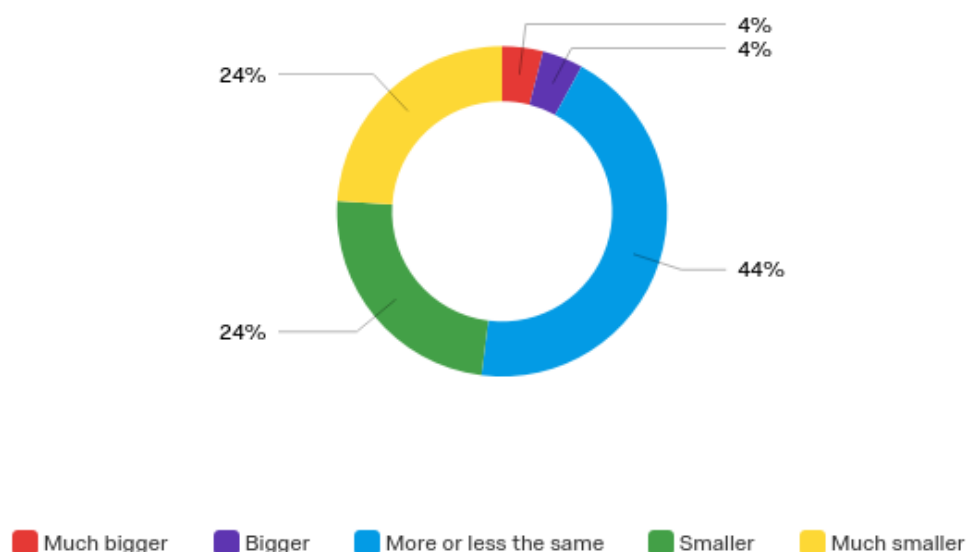
[38] One Helpdesk Full-Time Employee is 90,000 EUR per annum, including overheads. Support to the SDG 16 parallel reporting initiative took up approximately 6 months of the staff's time, between 2017 and 2019. As such, the total cost in staff costs was around 45,000 EUR. In addition, the external consultant was paid around 15,000 EUR (10,000 in 2017, 5,000 in 2018) for the support he provided to the initiative. Thus, in total, support costs from the Research & Knowledge Team were in the region of 60,000 EUR.

> **While all chapters say they want to repeat the SDG 16 parallel assessment on a regular basis, only half of survey respondents indicated that it was likely that their chapter could mobilize the necessary funding. For the rest, a minimum level of financial support from TI-S appears to be essential.**

All respondents said they would not hesitate to repeat the assessment on a regular basis if funding and technical support was available to them (Figure 20).

Figure 20: *Would you embark on this exercise on a regular basis if you had access to the funding and technical support needed?*

100%

Yes   No - Please explain:
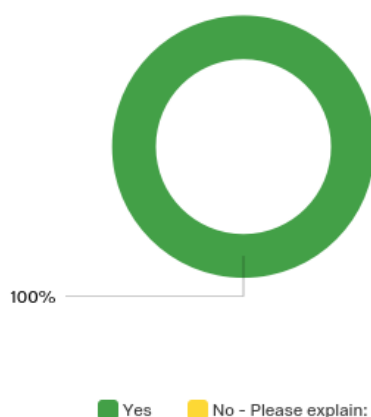
But in spite of the relatively small size of the budget needed by chapters to produce an SDG 16 parallel report, only half (52%) of respondents believe that it is 'very likely' (12%) or 'likely' (40%) that their chapter can mobilize the necessary resources to repeat the assessment (Figure 21). This is due to a number of reasons: in more developed countries such as Chile, the SDG Agenda may be less prominent and this makes fundraising more difficult; in countries where government-civil society relations are strained, such as Hungary, donors are reluctant to support the production of a civil society report whose conclusions are unlikely to put the government in a good light; in countries faced with economic hardship, such as Greece, fundraising locally for such activities can also be challenging. In such contexts, the continuation of the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise very much depends on the provision of further financial support from TI-S.

> **Insufficient funding has delayed the publication of several national and regional reports in time for the HLPF in 2019, including a regional report for the Lusophony, an updated regional report for the Americas, and a comprehensive regional report for Asia (i.e. on all four targets).**

Figure 21: *How likely is it that funding for future work related to SDG 16 parallel reporting can be secured by your Chapter?*
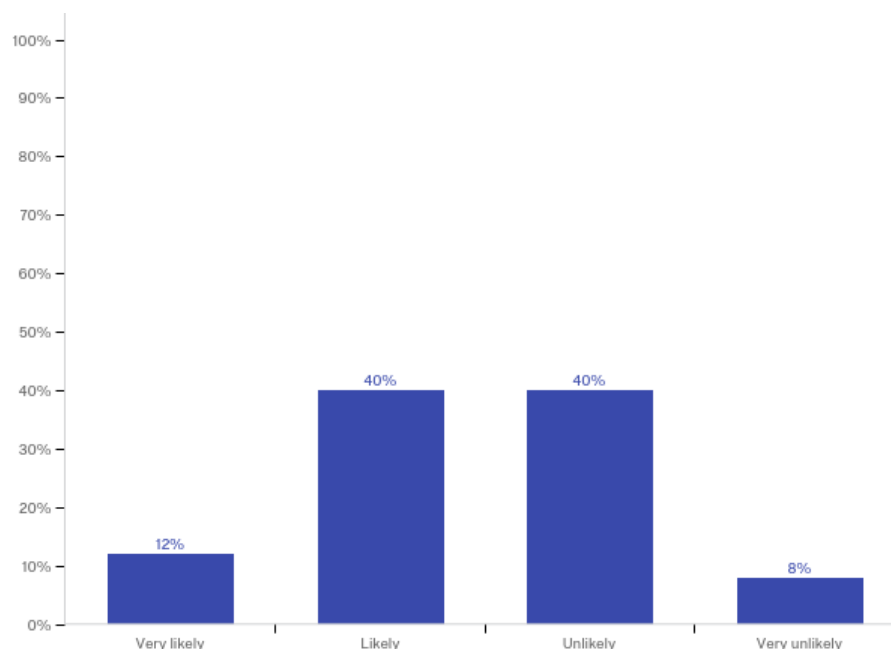
Key recommendations: For TI-S to mobilize additional financial resources for this initiative at global/regional level, two options could be envisaged:

- ✓ **(1) TI's regional and global projects which overlap with thematic areas covered by the tool could contribute funding to the parallel reporting initiative as a means to gather the evidence base for their own objectives (if needed, these projects could mobilize additional resources for a 'research/data collection component'). The regional parallel report for Asia-Pacific on SDG target 16.10 (on access to information and fundamental freedoms) is a good example of how an existing regional programme can draw on available resources (i.e. DFAT-funded staff) to support the conduct of national assessments.**

- ✓ **(2) Alternatively, a funding proposal for a global project on SDG 16 parallel reporting could be developed, which the EU or the OECD could be interested to fund. The EU is particularly keen to see civil society play an effective 'watchdog' role in the VNR process and at the HLPF, and noted at its latest Policy Forum on Development, in March 2019, that "the EU should promote multi-stakeholder consultation for the VNRs and support parallel processes, *such as shadow reports*, to encourage that all voices are heard."[39]**

6.3 Staffing resources invested in the development and roll-out of the tool so far

At TI-S level, the lack of coordination has been an important weakness of the initiative until now. Due to weak coordination by the Secretariat (i.e. horizontally, at Secretariat level, between the Research and Knowledge Team, Policy & Advocacy Team, Communications Team, Strategy and Impact Team, and relevant global and regional projects; and vertically, between the Secretariat, regional leads and

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[39] See final Communique here: https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/policy-forum-development/documents/final-communique-global-pfd-meeting-2019-es

national chapters), there is a large degree of ignorance about how the tool is being used across the movement, what the regional leads are doing, etc. Given the current absence of staff dedicated to and responsible for the SDG work, this situation is particularly pressing. The current setup is not suitable for the consolidation and scaling-up of this initiative.

In terms of staffing at Secretariat level, the only staff time dedicated to this initiative was that of the SDG Advocacy Manager, who is no longer with the organization and whose post remains vacant. The bulk of the research support to chapters was provided by one staff in the Research and Knowledge Team – without having time officially allocated to this work – with the support of a consultant. Together, they led the methodological development phase, provided one-to-one support to chapters throughout the research, analysis and report drafting stages, and handled quality control for the 150-item questionnaire filled out by chapters.

Key recommendations:
- ✓ **The consolidation and scaling-up of the SDG 16 parallel reporting initiative will require better knowledge management and coordination at TI-S level.**

- ✓ **There is a need for dedicated staffing resources at Secretariat level to make chapters aware of the tool, support them during the research phase, check-in regularly with regional leads, coordinate inter-chapter advocacy efforts in strategic fora, develop a cohesive and joined-up global and regional advocacy strategy.**

- ✓ **To this end, staff consulted in the course of this evaluation recommended that a multi-disciplinary team be established from existing staff at TI-S level, and that staff time be officially allocated to support the next phase.**

- ✓ **It was recommended that this team include at least one staff from each one of the following teams: Policy & Advocacy, Research & Knowledge, Communications, as well as relevant staff from global/regional projects and regional programmes. Moreover, one additional full-time staff would be needed to lead coordination with chapters, relevant TI-S staff and external partners.**

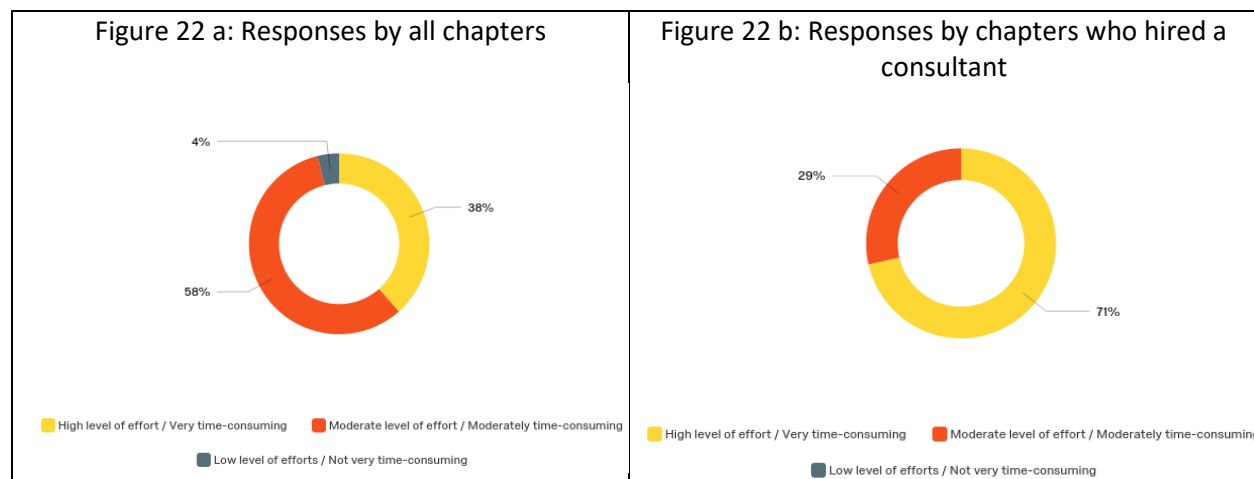## 6.4 Research capacity required by chapters

Generally speaking, chapters with at least seven staff were able to conduct the research in-house, without having to hire a consultant. It is noteworthy also that when a chapter/national contact leads the preparation of a regional report and provides training and technical support to participating chapters, as was done by TI Chile and the national contact in Nigeria, nearly all participating chapters are able to conduct the assessment in-house, irrespective of staff size and whether or not a grant was received from TI-S.

In terms of the level of effort and time needed to implement the methodology, a majority of respondents (58%) described it as 'moderate' (Figure 22 a). Further analysis of survey results reveals that those (38%) saying it required a 'high level of effort / very time-consuming' were mainly chapters who had hired a consultant to conduct the research, in view of the length of the questionnaire and limited staff capacity in the chapter (Figure 22 b). While this finding may be counterintuitive, chapters explained that hiring a consultant also created additional work for chapter staff who needed to review and quality assure the research conducted by the consultant, which can be a non-negligible burden on

chapters operating with only a few staff. (As mentioned earlier and as reported in Figure 17, only 12% of respondents overall said accessing the data needed to complete the questionnaire was 'very challenging' and therefore data accessibility issues are not the main reason why 38% of respondents reported a 'high level of effort' in completing the questionnaire).

When considering this feedback from chapters who hired consultants (71% of which said the exercise required 'a high level of effort / very time-consuming') along with observations from the Research & Knowledge Team to the effect that 1) reports produced in-house were perhaps *better* informed about the in-country situation than those produced by consultants (but maybe not as conscientiously completed) and 2) the research support requested from TI-S was not less when chapters hired consultants, one may question the value-added of hiring consultants to conduct this research. As noted further below, the provision of regional capacity building to chapters by regional leads on how to complete the research questionnaire appears to be an effective alternative.

Figure 22: *What level of effort/time did it take to complete the research questionnaire?*
Reponses by all chapters

| Figure 22 a: Responses by all chapters	Figure 22 b: Responses by chapters who hired a consultant
4% 38% 58% ■ High level of effort / Very time-consuming ■ Moderate level of effort / Moderately time-consuming ■ Low level of efforts / Not very time-consuming	29% 71% ■ High level of effort / Very time-consuming ■ Moderate level of effort / Moderately time-consuming ■ Low level of efforts / Not very time-consuming

The majority (73%) of respondents were able to compete the entire research process (i.e. filling out the research questionnaire, analyzing results and drafting the report) within a period of 1-3 months (Figure 23). Only one chapter (Jordan) reported using more than 6 months to complete the process, and this was because of availability constraints on the part of the consultant hired to conduct the research.

Figure 23: *How long did it take to complete the entire exercise (i.e. filling out the research questionnaire, analyzing results and drafting the report)?*
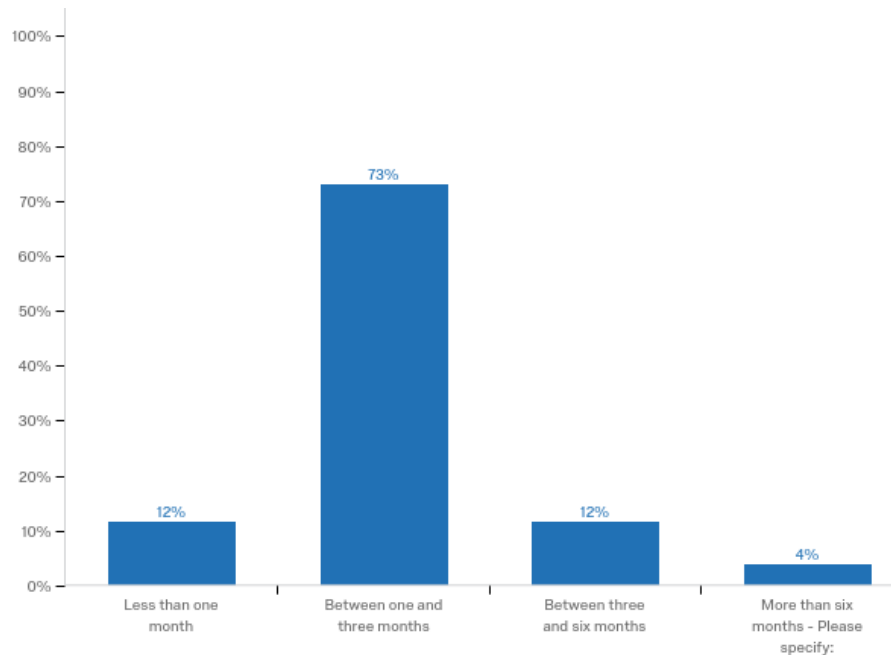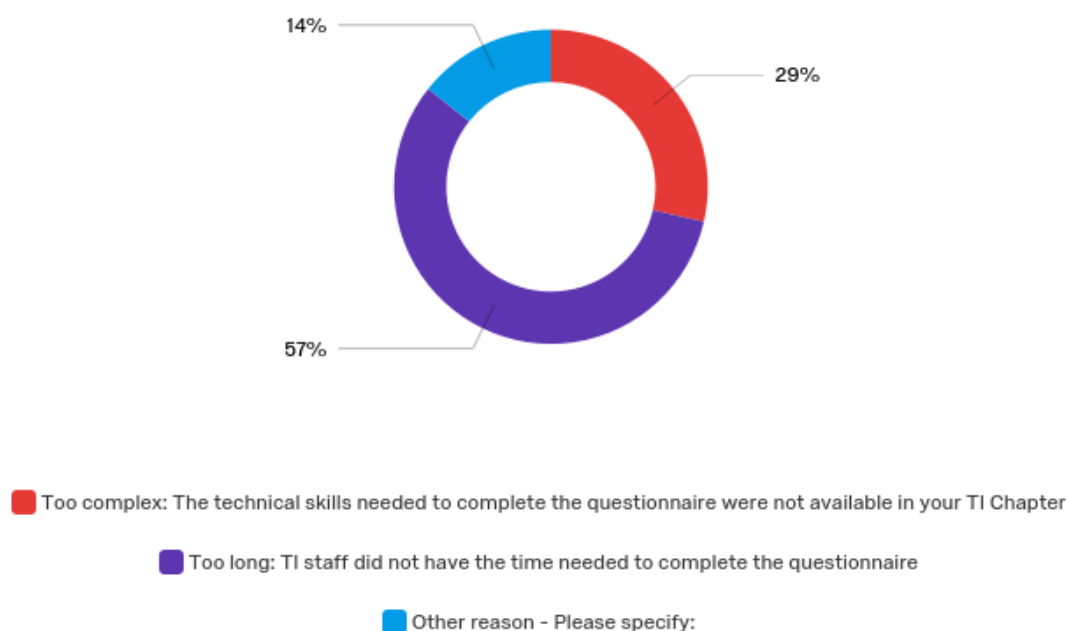
Nearly three quarters (73%) of respondents said their chapter was able to conduct the research in-house (Figure 24). In more than half of the remaining cases when a consultant led the research (27%), chapter staff also contributed to the research and controlled its quality. This collaborative arrangement between consultants and chapter staff is a positive indication that some degree of learning was indeed harnessed by chapters, even when consultants were hired.

Figure 24: *Who completed the research questionnaire?*

55
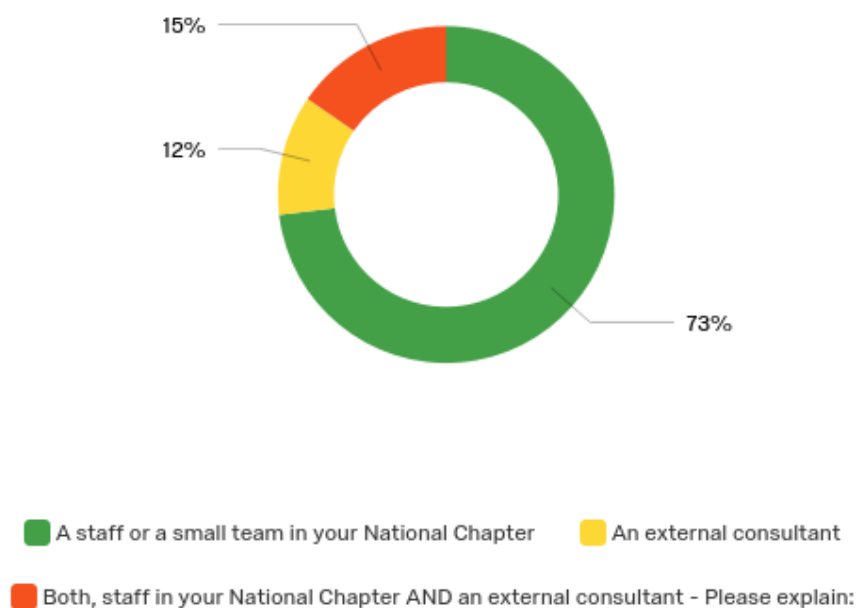
In the roughly quarter (27%) of cases where a consultant was hired, the main reason cited by chapters for seeking this external support was that the questionnaire was 'too long' (Figure 25).

Figure 25: *What was the main reason for hiring an external consultant to help complete the research questionnaire?*

■ Too complex: The technical skills needed to complete the questionnaire were not available in your TI Chapter

■ Too long: TI staff did not have the time needed to complete the questionnaire

■ Other reason - Please specify:

Analysis of the staffing capacity of participating chapters/national contacts shows that three quarters (75%) of chapters/national contacts that have at least 7 paid staff were able to complete the assessment in-house, without having to hire a consultant (Table 8):

Table 8: Use of consultants to conduct the research in light of chapter/national contact staffing capacity

Chapters/National Contacts with MORE than 7 staff	Paid staff	Research conducted in-house?	Factors that could help explain why a consultant was hired
1. Kenya	38	Yes	
2. Nigeria (National Contact)	At least 60	Yes	
3. Uganda	28	Yes	
4. Togo (National Contact)	20	Yes	
5. Afghanistan (Partner outside TI structure)	95	No	*TI-S wanted this assessment to help consolidate TI's*

			presence in the country: recommended a consultant known to TI-S
6. Bangladesh	313	Yes	
7. Cambodia	43	Yes	
8. Maldives	16	Yes	
9. Sri Lanka	28	No	---
10. Palestine	30	Yes	
11. Dominican Republic	66	Yes	
12. El Salvador	38	Yes	
13. Honduras	147	Yes	
14. Mexico	18	No	*Joined regional initiative later (was not as familiar as other chapters with methodology); received a mini grant from TI-S*
15. Peru	16	Yes	
16. Argentina	9	Yes	
17. Brazil	10	No	---
18. Chile	8	Yes	
19. Hungary	8	Yes	
20. Spain	8	No	*Received a mini grant from TI-S*
Proportion of chapters/national contacts with MORE than 7 staff that were able to conduct the research in-house:		**15/20 = 75%**	
Chapters/National Contacts with LESS than 7 staff	**Paid staff**	**Research conducted in-house?**	**Factors that could help explain why a consultant was NOT hired**
1. Jordan	4	No	
2. Bahamas (National Contact)	0	Yes	*Limited annual budget*
3. Portugal	3	Yes	*Limited annual budget*
4. Greece	4	No	
Proportion of chapters/national contacts with LESS than 7 staff that were able to conduct the research in-house:		**2/4 = 50%**	

✓ **Key recommendation: When allocating research-related financial support, TI-S should prioritize chapters with more limited staffing capacities (i.e. less than 7 staff).**

Secondly, it is noteworthy that when a chapter/national contact takes the lead to coordinate the preparation of a regional report, as was done by TI Chile and the national contact in Nigeria, nearly all participating chapters are able to conduct the assessment in-house, irrespective of staff size and whether or not a grant was received from TI-S (Table 9):

Table 9: Use of consultants to conduct the research when technical support/training is provided by a regional lead

Chapters/national contacts who responded to survey	Research conducted in-house or by consultant?
Regional Report for Africa	
Benin	In-house
Kenya	In-house
Nigeria	In-house
Togo	In-house
Uganda	In-house
Regional Report for Latin America	
Argentina	In-house
Brazil	*Consultant*
Chile	In-house
Costa Rica	In-house
El Salvador	In-house
Honduras	In-house
Mexico	*Consultant*
Peru	In-house

This suggests that 'leadership development grants' – up to EUR 25,000 – provided to regional leads for coordinating regional assessment initiatives were effective for building the capacity of individual chapters for using the tool, in a context where TI-S had limited capacity to dedicate to the exercise. Specifically, these grants made it possible for the regional leads to hold regional training workshops and to provide technical support to chapters in their region on a one-to-one basis. In Africa, for instance, the regional lead requested participating chapters to come to the regional workshop with a first draft of their completed questionnaire. The workshop could then proceed efficiently in reviewing and discussing chapters' work and in identifying specific areas where chapters needed to conduct further research.[40]
In interviews, chapters in all regions consistently underlined their appreciation for this form of peer-to-peer capacity-building, noting that it deepened connections between them and – anecdotally – often led to spillover on other collaborations.

> ✓ **Key recommendation: Going forward, however, the near-complete delegation of responsibility to regional chapter leads by TI-S (as was done during the first phase) may not be a sustainable arrangement, given the significant trade-off in terms of coordination. In the absence of effective knowledge management at Secretariat level, this can lead to a 'splintering' of the tool, whereby TI-S loses oversight of the quality of regional reports and of the regional advocacy carried out.**

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[40] Incidentally, this workshop also enabled cross-regional learning by inviting TI Chile to take part in discussions.

Finally, chapters required relatively limited ad-hoc support from TI-S in understanding and completing the questionnaire (Figure 26). Overall, across all three stages of the process (i.e. completing the questionnaire, analyzing results and drafting the report), the number of respondents saying they did *not* request support from TI-S (43) is higher than the number of respondents saying they *did* request support from TI-S (30).

Figure 26: *Did your Chapter request support from the TI-Secretariat as you were completing the questionnaire, analysing results and drafting the report?*
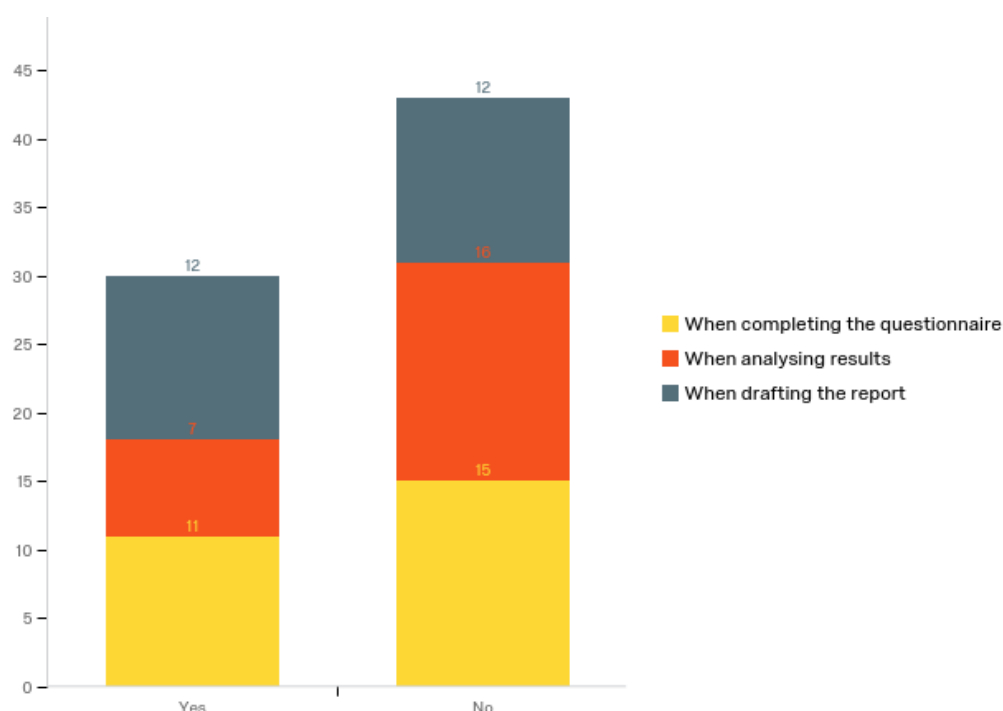
6.5 Research support provided by TI-S

This first phase has shown how critical it is for TI-S to establish a robust quality assurance mechanism, given the varying quality of the research conducted by chapters.

The most resource-intensive phase for the Research & Knowledge Team was the quality control stage, when answers to 150 questions had to be fact- and libel-checked, for each chapter. In 2018, when 15 such questionnaires needed to be reviewed within roughly three months, this became problematic. It meant that a single staff (together with a consultant) was responsible for the quality control for over 2,250 individual responses – many of which ran to multiple paragraphs. As mentioned earlier, this staff did not have any time officially allocated to this initiative. Under such circumstances, it became 'extremely challenging' to provide quality support and ensure consistency across reports.

One common lacuna concerns the sourcing of information and the provision of supporting evidence for qualitative assessments, which were not done systematically, and which sometimes led to overly positive or negative assessments. The reviewers also noted that providing feedback at the tail-end of the process, once a full report had already been drafted, was not optimal. When the Helpdesk, in 2018, encouraged participating chapters to send each of the four sections (16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.10) as soon

as they completed them, it did help make the process more manageable and reviewers could provide tips to chapters at an earlier stage. While not all chapters followed this approach back then, it should be made mandatory in the next phase.
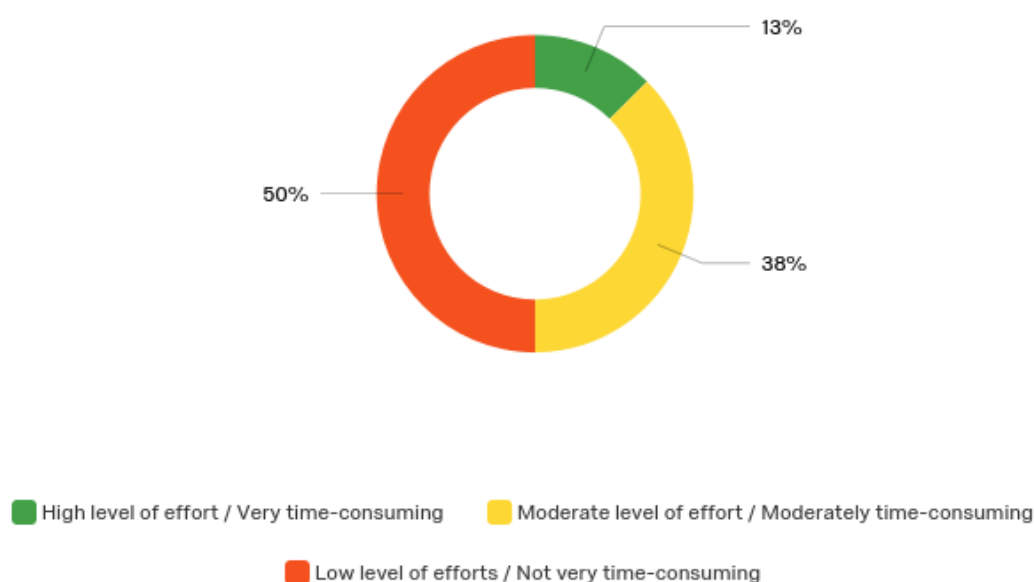
> ✓ **Key recommendation: Given the critical need to dedicate more manpower for quality control and support during the research phase, global/regional project staff could be made responsible for quality assuring sections of the assessment relevant to their specific thematic focus.**

6.6 Advocacy capacity required by chapters for advocacy at country level

> **Key finding: Developing an advocacy strategy *at country level* is found to be relatively easy; few chapters requested support from TI-S.**

Most respondents (88%) say that developing a national advocacy strategy around the assessment results requires only a 'moderate' (38%) or 'low' (50%) level of effort/time (Figure 27).

Figure 27: *What level of effort/time did it take to build an advocacy strategy on the basis of the research findings?*

- 🟩 High level of effort / Very time-consuming
- 🟨 Moderate level of effort / Moderately time-consuming
- 🟧 Low level of efforts / Not very time-consuming

Consequently, less than a third (31%) of respondents say they requested support from TI-S or other chapters (often from the 'lead chapter', in the case of regional initiatives) in developing their advocacy strategy at country level (Figure 28).

Figure 28: *Did your Chapter request support by the TI-Secretariat or other actors (e.g. other National Chapters) to develop your advocacy strategy?*

31%

69%

Yes , support was requested from: ■ No
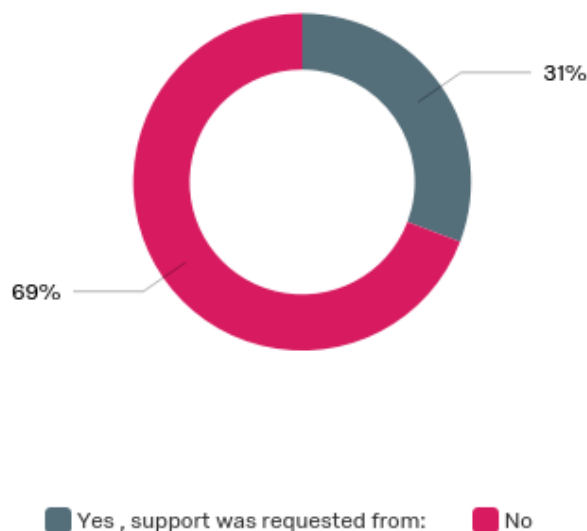
6.7 Advocacy support provided by TI-S

When asked whether they received the support they needed from TI-S, respondents are much less positive in their assessment when it comes to the advocacy phase, relatively to the research phase. A key distinction here is that chapters say they need advocacy support from TI-S mainly at regional/global level, not so much at country level.

While chapters are very appreciative of the support received from TI-S during the research phase, they are demanding a stronger engagement from the Secretariat on the advocacy front, *particularly at regional and global levels* (Figure 29). As noted by TI Spain, "We believe that TI-S should profile this initiative more internationally, given the high level of public interest in and media coverage given to the SDG Agenda." Global partners such as UNDP echoed the same: "Given its unique position and network, TI should continue its global knowledge production and advocacy around SDG 16. Otherwise, SDG 16 and its anti-corruption targets risk becoming an orphan in many countries as countries are not prioritizing monitoring of Goal 16 given data and methodological limitations."

Figure 29: *If your Chapter requested support from the TI-Secretariat, did you receive the support you needed – during the research phase and during the advocacy phase?*
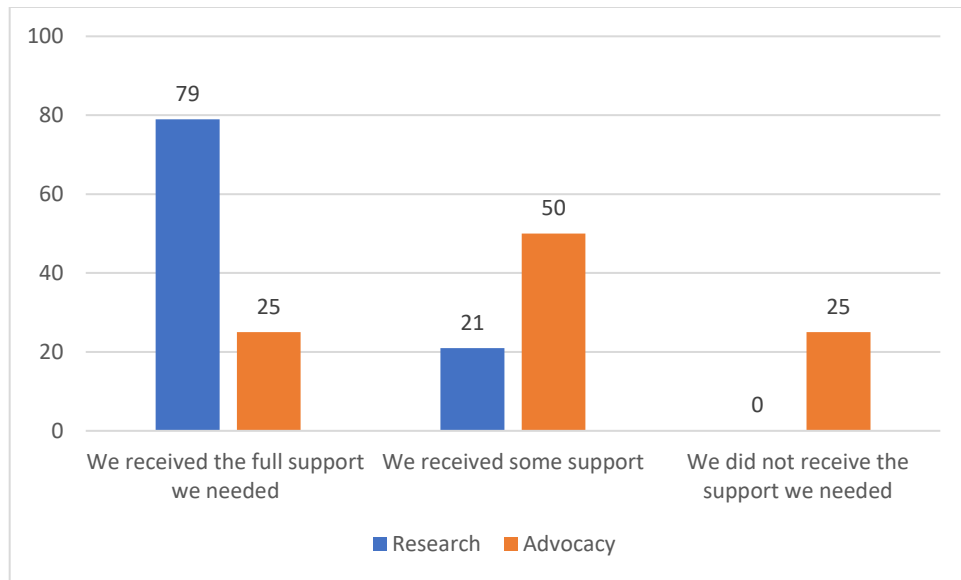
7. Annexes

7.1 Annex 1: Survey questionnaire for national chapters

Start of Block: Survey respondent information

This short survey (10 min) should be completed by the responsible TI staff in your National Chapter who was in charge of the SDG 16 shadow reporting exercise, based on TI's Parallel Reporting Tool on SDG 16**.**

If an external consultant was hired to do the research and/or draft the report, we will be pleased to engage with her/him <u>after</u> you have completed this survey.

This survey is part of an independent evaluation of TI's Parallel Reporting Tool on SDG 16; it is <u>not</u> aimed at evaluating the work carried out by your Chapter with this tool.

Your answers will be recorded anonymously; no direct attribution to respondents will be made in the final report. We only ask for your name so that we may follow up with questions.

You may leave the survey and return to it if you need to consult with colleagues before responding to some questions; it does not need to be completed in one sitting. (<u>Important note:</u> You need to use the same computer and same browser each time you return to the survey.)

Please email kdecker@transparency.org with any question you may have.

Many thanks in advance for taking 10 min to complete this survey. Your experience and feedback are indispensable to help TI improve its approach to SDG 16 monitoring.

Q1 What is your name?

_____

Q2 What is your email address?

_____

Q3 In which national TI National Chapter do you work?

_____

Q4 What **motivated** your Chapter to use this SDG 16 parallel reporting tool? Select all reasons that apply:

☐ The SDGs presented a good advocacy angle in our national context.

☐ We followed the example of other Chapters that engaged in this exercise.

☐ Our SDG 16 advocacy needed to be beefed up with more/better data.

☐ The tool offered a useful way for us to engage with the official SDG reporting process at the UN's High-Level Political Forum.

☐ The availability of technical support from the TI-Secretariat to assist us in using the tool.

☐ The availability of small grants provided by the TI-Secretariat to assist us in carrying out the exercise

☐ Other reason(s) – Please specify: _____

Q5 **What was achieved** by your Chapter in publishing an SDG 16 parallel report and in advocating for the implementation of its recommendations? Select all that apply:

☐ Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by the government. Please specify: _____

☐ Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by civil society and/or other non-government actors. Please specify: _____

☐ Increase in media coverage of SDG 16 and its corruption-related targets. Please specify: _____

☐ New partnerships established for your TI Chapter. Please specify: _____

☐ Increased visibility and strengthened reputation for your TI Chapter. Please specify: _____

☐ Opened up fundraising opportunities. Please specify: _____

☐ Better understanding of the anti-corruption framework at national level to help identify priority areas. Please specify: _____

☐ Other achievement(s) - Please specify: _____

☐ No significant achievement

Q6 Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to **other campaigns run by your Chapter**, would you say that:

○ The impact was larger than other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

○ The impact was more or less the same as other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

○ The impact was more limited than other campaigns carried out by your Chapter

---

Q7 Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors in your country, would you say that:

○ The impact was larger than other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

○ The impact was more or less the same as other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

○ The impact was more limited than other SDG 16-related campaigns carried out by other actors in your country

○ Don't know

Q8 Did you use the findings/data generated by this tool in **advocacy outside of the parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise**, for example in your Chapter's advocacy around specific policy areas covered by the tool (e.g. anti-money laundering, fiscal transparency, etc.)? Select all that apply:

☐ Yes, we used the report's findings in other ongoing campaigns run by our Chapter - Please specify: _____

☐ Yes, we used the report's findings to design new campaign(s) in specific policy area(s) identified as priority(ies) - Please specify: _____

☐ No, we only used the report's findings in advocacy around the parallel SDG 16 report - Please explain why: _____

Q9 Did your Chapter **mobilize other partners/coalitions** to jointly advocate around the findings and recommendations emerging from the assessment?

○ Yes, we mobilized partners/coalitions to advocate jointly – Please list these partners (including other TI national chapters): _____

○ No, our Chapter advocated on its own - Please explain why:
_____

Q10 Would you say that these partnerships led to **more impactful** advocacy than if your Chapter had advocated alone?

○ Much more impactful

○ Somewhat more impactful

○ Not much more impactful

○ No, it had a negative impact

End of Block: Advocacy impact

Start of Block: Methodology

Q11 To what extent do you find this parallel reporting methodology to be **important and useful**, compared to official reporting by the government on corruption-related targets under SDG 16?

○ Very important and useful

○ Moderately important and useful

○ Slightly important and useful

○ Not important or useful at all

Q12 Would you find it useful for the methodology to also examine **anti-corruption issues that are important for the achievement of other SDGs** (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education), instead of focusing only on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16?

○ Yes - Please specify for which SDG(s) this would be useful in your country:
_____

○ No

Q13 To what extent was the **methodology effective and useful** for achieving the below 5 objectives:

	Very effective and useful	Moderately effective and useful	Slightly effective and useful	Not effective or useful at all
1. Identifying priority corruption-related issues under SDG 16 in your country	○	○	○	○
2. Providing a baseline assessment of your country's anti-corruption framework, which can then be used to monitor progress	○	○	○	○
3. Shedding light on SDG 16 issues that were not addressed in the government's official SDG 16 report	○	○	○	○
4. Developing actionable recommendations to engage government on corruption-related SDG 16 issues	○	○	○	○
5. Building partnerships with other stakeholders to jointly advocate around corruption-related issues under SDG 16	○	○	○	○

Q14 What type of methodology do you find **more impactful for advocacy** in your country:

○ A methodology that produces globally comparable data to allow for your country's performance to be compared with other countries in your region/the world

○ A methodology that produces data on priority issues in your country, even if this data is not globally comparable

○ Both types of methodology can be equally impactful in your country

---

Q15 Currently, the tool only assigns a quantitative score to the legal and institutional framework, while compliance and implementation issues are assessed through qualitative reporting (narrative). Would you recommend that a **similar scoring system** be developed to assess these **implementation and compliance issues**?

○ Yes, this is fundamental for the tool to be effective

○ Yes, this could help improve the tool, but is not fundamental for the tool to be effective

○ No, this is not necessary

Q16 As you were completing the questionnaire, did you find it **challenging to access/obtain the necessary data**?

○ Very challenging

○ Moderately challenging

○ Not challenging

Q17 Which **sources of information** did you use to complete the questionnaire? Select all that apply:

☐ Desk research

☐ Media reporting

☐ Administrative data

☐ Government reports

☐ Key informant interviews

☐ Freedom of information requests

☐ Other sources - Please specify: _____

Q18 In your opinion, to what extent does this methodology **duplicate other existing TI methodologies** such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), etc.?

○ A lot of duplication - this methodology does not add much value

○ Some duplication - but this methodology still adds some value

○ Only a little duplication - this methodology adds a lot of value

○ Don't know

End of Block: Methodology

Start of Block: Advocacy and research capacity needed to use the tool

Q19 **Who** completed the research questionnaire?

    ◯ A staff or a small team in your National Chapter

    ◯ An external consultant

    ◯ Both, staff in your National Chapter AND an external consultant - Please explain:
    _____

Q20 What was the main **reason for hiring an external consultant** to help complete the research questionnaire?

    ◯ Too complex: The technical skills needed to complete the questionnaire were not available in your TI Chapter

    ◯ Too long: TI staff did not have the time needed to complete the questionnaire

    ◯ Other reason - Please specify: _____

Q21 What **level of effort/time** did it take to complete the **research questionnaire**?

    ◯ High level of effort / Very time-consuming

    ◯ Moderate level of effort / Moderately time-consuming

    ◯ Low level of efforts / Not very time-consuming

Q22 **How long** did it take to complete the **entire exercise** (i.e. filling out the research questionnaire, analyzing results and drafting the report)?

○ Less than one month

○ Between one and three months

○ Between three and six months

○ More than six months - Please specify:

_____

Q23 Did your Chapter **request support from the TI-Secretariat** as you were completing the questionnaire, analysing results and drafting the report?

	Yes	No
When completing the questionnaire	○	○
When analysing results	○	○
When drafting the report	○	○

Display This Question:

If Did your Chapter request support from the TI-Secretariat as you were completing the questionnaire... = When completing the questionnaire [Yes]

Or Did your Chapter request support from the TI-Secretariat as you were completing the questionnaire... = When analysing results [Yes]

Or Did your Chapter request support from the TI-Secretariat as you were completing the questionnaire... = When drafting the report [Yes]

Q24 If your Chapter requested support from the TI-Secretariat, **did you receive** the support you needed?

◯ We received the full support we needed

◯ We received some support - Please explain:
_____

◯ We did not receive the support we needed - Please explain:
_____

Q25 What **level of effort/time** did it take to build an **advocacy strategy** on the basis of the research findings?

◯ High level of effort / Very time-consuming

◯ Moderate level of effort / Moderately time-consuming

◯ Low level of efforts / Not very time-consuming

Q26 Did your Chapter request **support** by the TI-Secretariat or other actors (e.g. other National Chapters) to develop your **advocacy strategy**?

◯ Yes , support was requested from: _____

◯ No

Q27 If your Chapter requested support to develop your advocacy strategy, **did you receive** the support you needed?

○ We received the full support we needed

○ We received some support - Please explain:
_____

○ We did not receive the support we needed - Please explain:
_____

Q28 How was the **funding** secured for the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise?

○ Through a grant provided by the TI-Secretariat

○ Through a donor approached by your Chapter

○ Other source - Please specify: _____

Q29 How likely is it that **funding for future work** related to SDG 16 parallel reporting can be **secured by your Chapter**?

○ Very likely

○ Likely

○ Unlikely

○ Very unlikely

Q30 **How big** was the **budget** for this exercise (including both the research and advocacy work) compared to other advocacy activities carried out by your Chapter?

○ Much bigger

○ Bigger

○ More or less the same

○ Smaller

○ Much smaller

Q31 Would you embark on this exercise **on a regular basis** if you had access to the funding and technical support needed?

○ Yes

○ No - Please explain: _____

Q32 We will greatly appreciate **any further observations and/or suggestions** you may have on TI's SDG 16 parallel reporting work (e.g. on methodology, advocacy at national, regional or global level, capacity building and support):

_____

Q33 We are very keen to also gather the views and suggestions of **external stakeholders** you have engaged with in the course of the SDG 16 parallel reporting exercise.   This includes stakeholders in **government** (such as a representative of a National SDG Committee and/or a national anti-corruption commission); **civil society** (such as a representative of a national civil society platforms on SDGs or other CSOs involved in anti-corruption); **international/donor community** (such as a representative of the local UNDP office and/or a bilateral donor supporting anti-corruption reforms in your country); **the media** (such as journalists reporting on corruption issues); **research and/or academic institutions** (such as think tanks involved in anti-corruption policy research).   **Grateful if you could kindly contact**

relevant stakeholders (at national and/or regional level) and invite them to complete this short (5 min) online survey: TI SDG 16 Parallel Reporting Tool - Survey for External Stakeholders

Many thanks for your invaluable help!

7.2 Annex 2: Survey questionnaire for external partners

Start of Block: Survey respondent information

This short survey (5 min) should be completed by external stakeholders (in government, civil society, international/donor community, media, research and/or academic institutions) who are familiar with the SDG 16 shadow reporting exercise carried out by Transparency International, based on its Parallel Reporting Tool on SDG 16**.**

This survey is part of an independent evaluation of Transparency International's Parallel Reporting Tool on SDG 16.

Your answers will be recorded anonymously; no direct attribution to respondents will be made in the final report. We only ask for your name so that we may follow up with questions.

You may leave the survey and return to it if you need to consult with colleagues before responding to some questions; it does not need to be completed in one sitting. (Important note: You need to use the same computer and same browser each time you return to the survey.)

Please email kdecker@transparency.org with any question you may have.

Many thanks in advance for taking 5 min to complete this survey. Your experience and feedback are indispensable to help TI improve its approach to SDG 16 monitoring.

Q1 For which institution do you work?

○ Government - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

○ Civil society - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

○ Media - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

○ Research/academic institution - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

○ Multilateral - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

○ Other - Please specify the name of the institution:
_____

Q2 What is your role in this institution?

_____

Q3 At what level(s) do you work? Select all that apply:

☐ National - Please specify which country:
_____

☐ Regional - Please specify which region:
_____

☐ Global

Q4 What is your name?

_____

Q5 What is your email address?

_____

Q6 What was your involvement with the SDG 16 parallel report produced by Transparency International? Select all that apply:

☐ My organization funded the parallel reporting exercise

☐ My organization partnered with Transparency International to jointly advocate around the findings and recommendations emerging from the report

☐ My organization was not directly involved with Transparency International's parallel reporting exercise, but we do advocacy around SDG 16

☐ Other type of involvement - Please specify:
_____

End of Block: Survey respondent information

Start of Block: Advocacy impact

Q7 From what you know / what you have observed, **what was achieved** by Transparency International in publishing an SDG 16 parallel report and in advocating for the implementation of its recommendations? Select all that apply:

☐ Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by the government. Please specify: _____

☐ Anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by civil society and/or other non-government actors. Please specify: _____

☐ Increase in media coverage of SDG 16 and its corruption-related targets. Please specify: _____

☐ New partnerships established for Transparency International. Please specify: _____

☐ Increased visibility and strengthened reputation for Transparency International. Please specify: _____

☐ Opened up fundraising opportunities. Please specify: _____

☐ Better understanding of the anti-corruption framework at national/regional/global level to help identify priority areas. Please specify: _____

☐ Other achievement(s) - Please specify: _____

☐ No significant achievement

Q8 **Comparing** the **impact** of the SDG 16 parallel report to **other campaigns run by Transparency International** that you are aware of, would you say that:

○ The impact was larger than other TI campaigns

○ The impact was more or less the same as other TI campaigns

○ The impact was smaller than other TI campaigns

○ Don't know

Q9 **Comparing** the **impact** of the SDG 16 parallel report to **other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors** in your country/region/globally, would you say that:

○ The impact was larger than other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors

○ The impact was more or less the same as other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors

○ The impact was more limited than other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors

○ Don't know

End of Block: Advocacy impact

Start of Block: Assessment methodology

Q10 To what extent do you find this parallel reporting methodology to be **important and useful**, compared to official reporting by governments on corruption-related targets under SDG 16?

○ Very important and useful

○ Moderately important and useful

○ Slightly important and useful

○ Not important or useful at all

Q11 Would you find it useful for Transparency International to also examine **anti-corruption issues that are important for the achievement of other SDGs** (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education), instead of focusing this tool only on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16?

○ Yes - Please specify for which SDG(s) you would find this useful:
_____

○ No

Q12 Currently, the tool only assigns a quantitative score to the legal and institutional framework, while compliance and implementation issues are assessed through qualitative reporting (narrative). Would

you recommend that a **similar scoring system** be developed to assess these **implementation and compliance issues**?

○ Yes, this is fundamental for the tool to be effective

○ Yes, this could help improve the tool, but is not fundamental for the tool to be effective

○ No, this is not necessary

Q13 In your opinion and from what you know, to what extent does this parallel reporting tool on SDG 16 **duplicate other existing Transparency International methodologies** (such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), etc.)?

○ A lot of duplication - this tool does not add much value to other existing Transparency International methodologies

○ Some duplication - but this tool still adds some value to other existing Transparency International methodologies

○ Only a little/no duplication - this tool adds a lot of value to other existing Transparency International methodologies

○ Don't know

Q14 In your opinion and from what you know, to what extent does this methodology duplicate other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies **used by other actors?**

○ A lot of duplication - this methodology does not add much value to other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies used by other actors

○ Some duplication - but this methodology still adds some value to other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies used by other actors

○ Only a little/no duplication - this methodology adds a lot of value to other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies used by other actors

○ Don't know

Q15 Would you recommend that Transparency International continue to conduct this parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise **on a regular basis**?

○ Strongly recommend

○ Recommend

○ Do not recommend - Please explain: _____

Q16 We will greatly appreciate **any further observations and/or suggestions** you may have on Transparency International's SDG 16 parallel reporting work (e.g. on methodology, advocacy at national, regional or global level, capacity building and support):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Research questions (TOR)	Online survey for TI Chapters (All)	Online survey for external stakeholders (national/regional/global level)	Interviews – TI Chapters (10 'case studies' – TI staff and consultants)	Interviews – TI-S staff
ADVOCACY IMPACT – BASELINE				
What are the outcomes and impact achieved so far by National Chapters advocating for the implementation of the recommendations around the SDG parallel reports at global, national and regional levels?	*What motivated your Chapter to use this SDG 16 parallel reporting tool? Select all reasons that apply:* *-* *-* *-* *What was achieved by your Chapter in publishing an SDG 16 shadow report and advocating for a number of recommendations? Select all that apply:* *-Any anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by the government? Please specify _____* *- Any anti-corruption action/advocacy/reform undertaken by civil society and/or other actors? Please specify _____*	*From what you know / what you have observed, what was achieved by TI in publishing an SDG 16 parallel report and in advocating for the implementation of its recommendations? Select all that apply:* *-* *-* *-*	*In your view, how strategic/impactful was the advocacy around SDG 16 at country / regional / global level prior to using this tool?* *What motivated your Chapter to use this SDG 16 parallel reporting tool? Select all reasons that apply – please elaborate.* *What was achieved by your Chapter in publishing an SDG 16 shadow report and advocating for a number of recommendations? Select all that apply: – please elaborate.*	1. *In your view, how strategic/impactful was the advocacy around SDG 16 at country / regional / global level prior to using this tool?* 2. *What were TI's initial motivations in developing the tool? (e.g. strong request from Chapters, perceived as strategic, etc.)* 3. *From what you have observed, what were the main motivations of TI Chapters for using this tool?*

	- Increases in outreach/media coverage of SDG 16 and its corruption-related targets? Please specify _____ *- New partnerships for your TI Chapter? Please specify* _____ *- Added visibility and strengthened reputation for your TI Chapter? Please specify* _____ *- Increased understanding / baseline assessment of the anti-corruption framework at national level, and identification or priorities areas in need of reform? Please specify* _____		*4. From what you have observed, what do you see as the main achievements of this process?* *- At country level* *- At regional level* *- At global level*
	Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other campaigns run by your Chapter, would you say that: *- Larger* *- More or less the same* *- More limited* *Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other SDG 16-related*	*Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other campaigns run by TI that you are aware of, would you say that:* *- Larger* *- More or less the same* *- More limited* *Comparing the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report to other SDG 16-related campaigns run by other actors in your*	*What made the impact of the SDG 16 parallel report larger/more or less the same/more limited than other*	

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	campaigns run by other actors in your country, would you say that: - - -	country/region/globally, would you say that: - - -	campaigns run by your Chapter?	
				5. a) *Comparing the impact of regional-/global-level advocacy campaigns based on SDG 16 parallel report(s) to other TI-S-run regional-/global-level advocacy campaigns based on other research-based tools (like the NIS, BICA, TRAC etc.), would you say that it's been:* *- Larger impact* *- More or less the same* *- More limited impact* *b) How do you explain this larger/ more or less the same/more limited impact?*
What was the level of contribution of the National Chapters in achieving the outcomes/impact vis-à-vis the influence played by external factors?	---		*Would you say that the results you have achieved with the SDG 16 parallel report would not have happened if your TI Chapter had not undertaken the parallel-reporting exercise?*	*6. A) From what you observed, would you say that most TI Chapters led the advocacy around the SDG 16 parallel reports on their own, or in partnership with other actors?*

				Did other actors in the field contributed to the results achieved?	B) *From what you observed, did one approach seem to work better than the other?*
Was the advocacy work around the SDG parallel reports integrated into the general advocacy work of National Chapters, and if so to what extent?	*Did you use the findings/data generated by this tool in advocacy outside of the parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise, for example in your Chapter's advocacy around specific policy areas covered by the tool (e.g. anti-money laundering, fiscal transparency, etc.)? Select all that apply:* *-Yes, we used the findings in other ongoing campaigns run by our Chapter - Please specify: -___* *-Yes, we used the findings to design new campaign(s) in specific policy area(s) identified as priority(ies) - Please specify: ___* *-No, we have not had the chance yet to integrate the advocacy work around*			*Same question – please elaborate.*	7. *From what you have observed, did Chapters use the findings/data generated by this tool in advocacy outside of the parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise, for example in advocacy around specific policy areas covered by the tool (e.g. anti-money laundering, fiscal transparency, etc.)?*

	the SDG 16 parallel report into the general advocacy work of our Chapter - Please specify:			
How do the national parallel reports fit into the SDG advocacy strategy at regional and global level?	---		*How significant/ prominent was this 'product' relatively to other 'products'/ initiatives used by NCs at regional level?* *How were the national/regional parallel reports used by TI-S in its SDG advocacy strategy at global level?* *Would you say that the impact of regional SDG 16 parallel reports was greater/ more limited than the impact of national level reports?* *Why do you think that is?*	8. *How significant/prominent was this 'product' relatively to other 'products'/initiatives used by TI-S in its SDG advocacy strategy at global level?* 9. *How were the national/regional parallel reports used by TI-S in its SDG advocacy strategy at global level?* 10. *A) Would you say that the impact of regional SDG 16 parallel reports was greater/more limited than the impact of national level reports?* *B) Why do you think that is?*

What are the key factors behind successes or failures?	---		Following up on 1st question above: What made these achievements possible? Success factors? Obstacles faced? Have there been any missed opportunities or are there foreseeable opportunities coming up?	11. From what you have observed, what made the tool's achievements possible? - Success factors: - Obstacles faced: - Have there been any missed opportunities or are there foreseeable opportunities coming up?
Which fora, coalitions and partners, and overall advocacy strategies proved more effective in pushing for the messaging coming out of the SDG Parallel Reports?	Did your Chapter mobilize other partners/coalitions to jointly advocate around the findings and recommendations emerging from the assessment? -No, our Chapter advocated on its own -Yes, we mobilized partners to advocate jointly – Please list these partners: _____ (Skip logic: If mobilized other partners:) Would you say that these partnerships led to more impactful advocacy than if your Chapter had advocated alone?		In terms of advocacy strategies/ messaging for various target audiences, what approaches worked well? What did not work well? Why? If a regional report was produced where your country's performance was compared to others in the region: How would you compare the advocacy impact of the national report vs. the advocacy impact of the regional report published for your region?	12. What partnerships proved most effective for advocacy around the parallel reports? - At country level: - At regional level: - At global level: 13. In terms of advocacy strategies/messaging for various target audiences, what approaches worked well? What did not work well? Why? 14. Any advocacy strategy that proved particularly effective? - At country level: - At regional level:

	Yes, very much / Yes, somewhat / Not really / Not at all		*Going forward, would you say that both reports are necessary? Or only regional/ national reports?* *Success factors / obstacles faced in forging partnerships for joint advocacy around the parallel report? Lessons learned?*	- *At global level:*

ADVOCACY IMPACT – FUTURE-LOOKING

Are the recommendations (in terms of scope, language etc.) fit-for-the-purpose of the SDG16 advocacy work and approaches? If yes, how can their potential be maximised; if not, what are the alternatives?	---		*In retrospect, do you feel that the recommendations made in your national/ regional report – in terms of their number, language used, themes covered, etc. – could have been more impactful if they had been formulated differently?* *How differently would you formulate these recommendations next time?*	15. *In retrospect, do you feel that the recommendations made in the national & regional parallel reports – in terms of their number, language used, themes covered, etc. – could have been more impactful if they had been formulated differently?*

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What types of partnerships and coalitions at national, regional and global levels are likely to be more effective and impactful when it comes to pushing for specific policy recommendations based on the SDG Parallel Reports' recommendations?	---		*What were the most impactful partnerships (at country/ regional level) you engaged in, when advocating for specific policy recommendations based on report's findings?* *Why were these partnerships impactful? In retrospect, do you feel that other partnerships than the ones you engaged in would have led to more impactful advocacy around your recommendations?*	16. *A) Going forward, do you feel that other partnerships than the ones you engaged in at regional/global level could lead to more impactful advocacy?* *B) Which new partnership would you recommend exploring?*
What advocacy strategies/ communication/ messaging are more compelling and more likely to have greater traction with the respective target groups when it comes to trying to influence the fulfilment of commitments within SDG16?	---		*In terms of advocacy strategies/messaging for various target audiences, what approaches worked well? What did not work well? Why?* *Going forward, would you recommend exploring other advocacy strategies, such as…?*	17. *Going forward, would you recommend exploring other advocacy strategies, such as…?*

			What are relevant (so far unused) fora, coalitions and partners at regional/ global level?	
How can TI-S better coordinate and shape global messaging around the parallel reports? What opportunities are there for TI-S to build on national reports and turn them into effective global advocacy products?	---		*How would you recommend going about the global messaging around parallel reports given the wide diversity of settings/results coming out of national reports?* *Would you recommend shaping different messaging at regional and global level?* *Going forward, would you recommend putting together a global SDG 16 parallel report – or do you think that regional reports are likely to be more relevant/ impactful? (addressing regional specificities & comparing country performance in a given region)*	18. A) How would you recommend going about the global messaging around parallel reports given the wide diversity of settings/results coming out of national reports? B) Would you recommend shaping different messaging at regional and global level? 19. Going forward, would you recommend putting together a global SDG 16 parallel report – or do you think that regional reports are likely to be more relevant/impactful? (addressing regional specificities & comparing country

				performance in a given region)
Can the overall coordination around SDG advocacy strategies at national, regional and global levels be improved? If so, how can it help maximise impact?	---			*Can the overall coordination around SDG advocacy strategies at national, regional and global levels be improved? If so, how can it help maximise impact?* *What is needed to improve overall coordination around SDG 16 parallel reporting advocacy strategies?* *Was the use of the HLPF as a strategic event to launch the SDG 16 parallel reports impactful? What went well/ less well when launching the reports at this event? How sustainable, impactful was the launch at the HLPF for the general advocacy?* *Going forward, can you think of other strategic global/regional events*	20. *What resources (staff/ finances) are needed by TI-S to improve overall coordination around SDG 16 parallel reporting advocacy strategies?* 21. *A) Was the use of the HLPF as a strategic event to launch the SDG 16 parallel reports impactful? B) What went well/less well when launching the reports at this event? C) Going forward, can you think of other strategic global/regional events that could be targeted (beyond HLPF)?* 22. *Are there other strategic global platforms / civil society coalitions (on SDG 16 or others)*

| | | | | that could be targeted (beyond HLPF)? | that could be leveraged/engaged? |
| | | | | Are there other strategic global platforms / civil society coalitions (on SDG 16 or others) that could be leveraged/ engaged? | |

Research questions (TOR)	Online survey for TI Chapters (All)	Online survey for external stakeholders (national/regional/global level)	Interviews – TI Chapters (10 'case studies' – TI staff and consultants)	Interviews – TI-S staff
METHODOLOGY				
Is the methodology appropriate to fulfil the overarching objective of advancing TI's ongoing work to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030?	*To what extent do you find this parallel reporting methodology to be important and useful, compared to official reporting by the government on corruption-related targets under SDG 16?* *Scale: Very useful – Not useful* *Would you have found it useful for the methodology to examine anti-corruption aspects that are important for the achievement of other SDGs (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education),*	*To what extent do you find this parallel reporting methodology to be important and useful, compared to official reporting by governments on corruption-related targets under SDG 16?* *Would you find it useful for the methodology to also examine anti-corruption issues*	*Do you think that the tool's explicit focus on anti-corruption targets in the SDG Agenda is an advantage, or do you find this framing too narrow (for instance in national contexts where the SDG Agenda does not have much traction, compared to other national commitments such as a newly adopted national anti-corruption strategy, etc.)?* *Is there a specific SDG – beyond SDG 16 – which could have benefitted from this type*	23. *Do you think that the tool's explicit focus on anti-corruption targets in the SDG Agenda is an advantage, or do you find this framing too narrow?*

	instead of focusing only on SDG 16? _Yes – Please specify for which specific SDG this would have been useful in your country: -_____ _No_	_that are important for the achievement of other SDGs (such as SDG 3 on Health or SDG 4 on Education), instead of focusing only on anti-corruption targets under SDG 16?_	_of assessment in your country (i.e. looking at the existence, effective implementation and impact of anti-corruption frameworks/institutions/progr ammes in a given sector)?_	
Is the methodology appropriate to fulfil the tool's five main aims?	_To what extent was the methodology effective and useful for achieving the below 5 objectives:_ A) _Identify corruption priorities under SDG 16 in your country_ B) _Shed light on SDG 16 issues that were not addressed in the government's official report_ C) _Engage government on SDG 16 issues, in the context of national SDG planning/implementation/r eporting_ D) _Build partnerships with other stakeholders to jointly address these issues?_ Scale: Very much – Some/a little – Not at all		_Among these various objectives of the tool, why did you find [objective x] most relevant in your country? And why did you find [objective x] least relevant?_ _Did the tool fill any 'knowledge gap' on specific corruption issues (i.e. "did you learn anything"), or did you already have this information?_	_24. Among these various objectives of the tool, which one(s) did you find to be best served by the tool? And which one would you say is the least well served by the tool?_

Is the methodology coherent, robust and consistent overall? Does it facilitate comparisons between countries and regions? Does it help TI to build a picture of global progress towards the relevant SDG 16 targets?	*What is more impactful for your advocacy efforts in your country:* *-To produce globally comparable data, so you can compare the performance of your country to others in your region/the world?* *-To produce data that sheds light on a priority issue in your country, even if this data will not be globally comparable?* *-Both are needed*		*Did you find the three-part assessment approach used by this tool useful? i.e. looking first at the quality of the legislative/policy/institutional framework, second at existing relevant regional/global data sources, and third at actual implementation on the ground?* *Or would you have found it sufficient to focus only on one or two of these three parts?*	*25.A) Would you say that the methodology as it currently stands effectively serves the purpose of "building a picture of global/regional progress" towards the relevant SDG 16 targets?*
Should there be any revisions to the methodology (in terms of, for example, policy areas assessed, data sources, etc.)?	*Currently, the tool only allows for the quantitative scoring of the legal and institutional framework, while compliance and implementation issues are assessed through qualitative reporting (narrative). Would you recommend that a similar scoring system (based on a list of scoring criteria) be developed to assess these implementation/compliance issues, to give a more complete picture of progress?* Yes/No	*Currently, the tool only assigns a quantitative score to the legal and institutional framework, while compliance and implementation issues are assessed through qualitative reporting (narrative). Would you recommend that a similar scoring system be developed to assess these implementatio*	*Are there any missing policy areas you would have liked to see covered by the tool?* *How useful was it to compile and review the wide range of existing data sources produced by civil society groups and international organisations on various policy areas? Did you feel comfortable using such sources in the assessment even if the data is not produced by TI (nor by the government)?*	*b) Going forward, how would you adjust the methodology to better serve this purpose?* *c) In particular, do you find the three-part assessment approach used by this tool to be optimal, or would you say that the tool could work well (better) with a focus on only one or two of these 'parts'?*

		n and compliance issues?	In conducting this assessment, did you manage to access official data/information which you did not have access to beforehand?	
	As you were completing the questionnaire, did you find it challenging to access/obtain the necessary data? *Which sources of information did you use to complete the questionnaire (tick all that apply):* - *Desk research* - *Media reporting* - *Administrative data* - *Government reports* - *Key informant interview* - *Freedom of information requests* - *Other (please specify)*			
How does the Shadow Reporting align with TI's evidenced-based advocacy approach? To which extent does it complement/integrate/duplicate other TI tools and approaches?	*In your opinion, to what extent does this methodology:* -*Duplicates other existing TI methodologies (NIS, GCB, CPI, etc.) and therefore does not add much value* -*Usefully complements these methodologies and therefore adds value* *(Scale with these two statements at the two ends of the spectrum)*	*In your opinion and from what you know, to what extent does this methodology duplicate other existing TI methodologies (such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption*	*When you compare this tool with existing TI methodologies (such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), etc.), do you find that this tool is redundant – or does it really add value? How so?* *Would you recommend that TI National Chapters continue to*	26. *When comparing this tool with existing TI methodologies (such as the National Integrity System (NIS) assessments, the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), etc.), do you find that this tool*

		Perception Index (CPI), etc.)? *In your opinion and from what you know, to what extent does this methodology duplicate other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies used by other actors?* *Would you recommend that TI continue to conduct this parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise on a regular basis?*	*conduct this parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise on a regular basis?*	*is redundant – or does it really add value? How so?* 27. *To what extent would you say that this methodology duplicate other existing SDG 16 monitoring methodologies used by other actors?* 28. *Would you recommend that TI continue to conduct this parallel SDG 16 reporting exercise on a regular basis?*

Research questions (TOR)	Online survey for TI Chapters (All)	Online survey for external stakeholders (national/regional/global level)	Interviews – TI Chapters (10 'case studies' – TI staff and consultants)	Interviews – TI-S staff
ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH CAPACITY				
What level of skill and effort does the completion of the research	*Who completed the research questionnaire? -TI staff*		*(If hired an external consultant): Now that you have conducted the*	29. a) *In which phase did Chapters require*

questionnaire require? Do chapters have the necessary skills and capacity to apply the methodology, conduct the analysis and produce the report based on it? When they do not, and rely on external consultants, how is learning being harnessed, if at all?	*-External consultant* *-Both – Please explain: ___* *(skip logic: If hired an external consultant) What was the main reason for hiring an consultant?* *-The technical skills needed to complete the questionnaire were not available in your TI Chapter (too complex)* *-TI staff did not have the time to complete the question (too long)* *-Other reason: ___* *What level of effort/time did it take to complete the research questionnaire? Scale: Very time-consuming / High level of effort <–> Not very time-consuming / Low level of effort* *How long did it take to complete the entire exercise (i.e. filling out the research questionnaire, analyzing results and drafting the report)?* *Did your Chapter request support from the TI-*		*assessment once, with the support of a consultant, would you feel able to do the assessment in-house next time?* *Or did this first experience reveal that this is not a tool that your Chapter can use on its own?*	*most support from TI-S?* *-When completing the questionnaire?* *-When analyzing results/drafting the report?* *-When elaborating an advocacy strategy/launching the report, etc.?* *b) In each phase, what type of support was requested from TI-S?*

	Secretariat as you were completing the questionnaire/analysing results/drafting report? *If your Chapter requested support from the TI-Secretariat to complete the questionnaire, did you receive the support you needed?*			
What skills and efforts are needed to build an advocacy strategy on the research findings? Do chapters have the necessary skills and capacity to translate the research findings into a targeted advocacy strategy? When they do not, what capacity needs are there in the National Chapters and how can they be built in the most sustainable way?	*What level of effort/time did it take to build an advocacy strategy on the research findings?* Scale: Very time-consuming / High level of effort <–> Not very time-consuming / Low level of effort *Did your Chapter request support by the TI-Secretariat to develop your advocacy strategy?* *If your Chapter requested support by the TI-Secretariat to develop your advocacy strategy, did you receive the support you needed?*		*Did you request support from TI-S to help with designing the advocacy strategy? If not, why?* *What other potential sources of support did you/could you draw on? e.g. chapter-chapter exchanges and support* *Was developing an advocacy strategy based on these research findings any more challenging than other types of advocacy strategies you are used to developing? If yes, in what way(s)?* *Do you see potential in using the research findings*	30. *A) What is your assessment of National Chapters' capacity to use this tool?* *B) How could National Chapters' capacity to use the tool be built in a sustainable way?*

	How was the funding secured for the exercise? (via TI-S vs. via donors vs. etc.) *How likely is it that future activities with regard to the shadow reporting can be fundraised for? (Very likely… Very unlikely)* *How big was the budget for this exercise (including both the research and advocacy work) compared to other advocacy activities carried out by your Chapter?* *Would you find it worthwhile to embark on this exercise on a regular basis if your Chapter had access to the funding and technical support needed?*		*generated by this tool for advocacy beyond SDG 16, in your country? Can you share any recent experience/plans in this regard?* *What support would be needed by your Chapter when using this tool, beyond advocacy support and other support provided by TI-S? For instance, peer-to-peer support between national chapters, best-practice exchanges, etc.*	
At National Chapter and at TI Secretariat's levels, how consuming is the tool in terms of the resources involved – time, human, incl. skills/ expertise and financial? How does it compare to other TI	*Already covered above*		*What support should be provided by TI-S?* *What other sources of support would be helpful (peer support etc.).*	*C) Compared to other existing data-based TI advocacy tools (such as the CPI, the GCB and the NIS), how labour-intensive, time-consuming and costly has it been*

methodological advocacy tools?				*for TI-S to support its national chapters in using this tool?* D) *Would you say that these investments were worth it, when considering the overall impact of the parallel reports? (i.e. 'cost-benefit analysis')* E) *In your view, what should be the role of TI-S in supporting NCs.* F) *On the basis of your experience supporting the first phase, what additional resources (human, technical and financial) would you say are needed at TI-S level in order for Chapters to receive the support they need, in the next phase?*