

DÍLI, TIMOR-LESTE
OUTCOME DOCUMENT

2019 ANNUAL SHOWCASE



Sixteen
Plus Forum



www.wfuna.org/sixteenplusforum



From left to right: Mr. Abraham Joseph, the Education and Training Institute; Ms. Estelle Duluc, Institut Français Timor-Leste; and H.E. Marina Berg, Ambassador of Sweden to Indonesia



In April 2016, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) launched the 16+ Forum, a platform and partnership committed to SDG 16+ and to showcasing what it means to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies in policy and practice at all levels and for a wide community of stakeholders — governments, civil society, the UN, regional and international organizations, academia, the private sector and media. The 16+ Forum comprises 12 member states, including Australia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Timor-Leste, and Tunisia, as well as the g7+ and with WFUNA as its Secretariat.

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FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the 2019 16+ Forum Timor-Leste Annual Showcase — the third Annual Showcase and the first to be held in Asia. With 2019 marking twenty years since Timor-Leste voted for independence and as one of the first SDG 16 champions, Timor-Leste made for a particularly timely, relevant and inspiring host. Effective coordination within the government, as well as with various national Commissions, civil society organizations, the UN Country Team, private sector entities and other actors was critical to the success of this Showcase.

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The Timor-Leste Annual Showcase provided a platform to break barriers and share best practices, inclusive of challenges, successes and solutions, in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies across a variety of global contexts. Grounded in Timor-Leste's unique and powerful experience and its goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2030, discussions built upon the flagship theme of "Reconciliation, Strong Institutions and Inclusion", addressing issues including reconciliation, narrative and resilience, gender equality and youth empowerment, human rights, and efforts to strengthen governance and institutions at all levels, before broadening to an array of SDG 16+ topics from various national and regional perspectives.

Drawing on Timor-Leste's position within the Asia-Pacific region, links between climate change and SDG 16+ were also highlighted during this year's discussions, with interlinkages drawn across the 2030 Agenda and complementary frameworks, further reinforcing the need for a whole of society approach.

With an eye towards the UN's 75th Anniversary in 2020 and following HLPF 2019 and the first SDG Summit, this Annual Showcase sought to further support and energize SDG 16+ implementation at home and abroad, with the ultimate aspiration of 'leaving no one behind.' It is critical that we all work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, strengthen institutions, deliver justice and support inclusion.

Thank you to all who participated and offered their experience, expertise and insights. Please note that this document is intended to be a living resource. We hope that it will prove useful to the growing SDG 16+ community and for our collective pursuit of SDG 16+.

With thanks,



H.E. Maria Helena Pires
Permanent Representative
of Timor-Leste to the United Nations



Mr. Bonian Golmohammadi
Secretary-General of the World Federation
of United Nations Associations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



With over 250 participants from 45 countries, this 2019 Showcase offered a variety of experiences in SDG 16+ implementation. Among the various best practices and solutions shared, a few overarching themes emerged. First, **that the SDG 16+ framework is well-placed to act as an overarching strategic policy and planning tool** across ministries and local authorities, at national and local levels. This could prove particularly useful for framing politically challenging issues such as the protection of human rights.

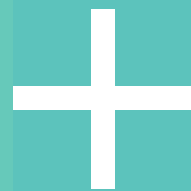
Second, **localization of SDG 16+** is key to the agenda's success and therefore requires an increase in visibility and resources. Localization here relates both to how the SDGs and SDG 16+ can provide a framework for local development policy, and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up.

Third, **advancing SDG 16+ requires a whole-of-society approach**, which includes civil society, the public and private sectors, academia and the media. A balance of power between various stakeholders, granting more equitable access to decision-making processes, especially as related to civil society organizations (CSOs) is critical to sustainable and coherent delivery.

And fourth, there is an urgent need to increase **political will and accountability** at all levels, with a dual focus on short-term impacts as well as long-term solutions, if SDG 16+ aspirations are to be met.

Beyond these overarching themes, the following topics emerged as particularly prominent: reconciliation, the challenges of implementation and resilience; the universal impetus for accelerating gender equality, including, as related to land, institutions and peace processes; youth inclusion in decision-making and linking policy and programming with complementary agendas; the centrality of human rights to SDG 16+ and protecting minority rights, with a focus on civic space; the need for constant and consistent anti-corruption efforts in strengthening institutions across contexts; bridging formal and informal systems in terms of governance, justice and peace processes; and the need for more innovative and inclusive approaches to data and reporting.

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SDG 16

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To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Specific targets, indicators and means of implementation included in appendix.

Beyond SDG 16, **16+** includes SDG 16 interlinkages to the 2030 Agenda, as mutually interdependent and reinforcing, and its links to other agendas, including Sustaining Peace.



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We can say that inclusion as a policy is part of our DNA. On one level, we have worked hard to have inclusive processes and policies [...] translated into practice by being incorporated into government programs. However, there is also a recognition that despite our achievements — and we must remember that we are still a very young nation that has literally risen from the ashes — we have not gone far enough.

— H.E. Maria Helena Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

Left: From left to right: H.E. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN; and Ms. Valeria Acosta, Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres

Right: H.E. Maria Helena Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the UN

INTRODUCTION



Building on two previous Annual Showcases, the first in Georgia in 2017 followed by Sierra Leone in 2018, the 2019 16+ Forum Timor-Leste Annual Showcase (11–14 November) brought together over 250 participants from more than 45 countries. Each Showcase has built upon the previous, targeting both host country and international participants, providing a space for knowledge sharing and relationship-building across sectors and focused on SDG 16+ policy, programming and advocacy at various levels.

With the flagship theme of 'Reconciliation, Strong Institutions and Inclusion', this 2019 Timor-Leste Annual Showcase was the first to take place in Asia. Still one of the youngest countries in the world, advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies is, and has been, a priority for Timor-Leste at national and international levels. Through civil society and private sector workshops, field visits and panel and breakout discussions, participants shared best practices in SDG 16+ implementation across a host of countries and contexts, reinforcing their collective commitment to realizing more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

This outcome document attempts to capture the most salient challenges, successes and solutions shared, beginning with the flagship theme and then broadening to address the breadth of SDG 16+.



Left: H.E. Jinho Song,
Vice-President of the Korea
International Cooperation
Agency (KOICA)



Right: H.E. Dionisio Babo Soares,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation of Timor-Leste

When considering KOICA's 4P (Peace, People, Prosperity and Planet) basic principles for ODA, the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase is a very effective and necessary opportunity to [deliver KOICA's key messages and] explore the ways in which we can move forward together, through the sharing of our partners' diverse ideas and lessons learnt.

— H.E. Jinho Song, Vice-President of KOICA

[In Timor-Leste,] we have had four elections where the [voter] turnout was above 75% and that shows that people have become more integrated, grappling with the notion of national unity and becoming part of the development process itself.

— H.E. Dionisio Babo Soares
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste



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RECONCILIATION, STRONG INSTITUTIONS AND INCLUSION

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A FOCUS ON TIMOR-LESTE

In addressing Strong Institutions and Inclusion in Policy, Practice and Process, the importance of effective, innovative and responsive governance, institutional accountability and inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making in all political processes, rather than tokenism, was reinforced. Additional themes included the need to protect civic space, media freedoms and the general protections guaranteed under the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, as well as the value of leveraging comparative strengths through effective and balanced public-private partnerships.

As host of the third Annual Showcase, initial discussions built upon Timor-Leste's experience with Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs), as well as its national development process following Indonesian occupation and the restoration of independence in 2002. In an attempt to repair frayed social fabrics and strengthen institutional capacity within Timor-Leste, the country first initiated a national reconciliation process, before establishing a TRC with the Government of Indonesia, which laid the foundation for future bilateral cooperation and partnership. Nonetheless, challenges remain. While Timor-Leste has undergone four democratic and peaceful elections since 2002 and continues to solidify its bilateral relations with Indonesia, implementing the recommendations from both TRCs has proven difficult and ultimately compelled the Timorese Government to create the Centro Nacional

Chega! (CNC) to further implementation efforts. (See subsequent section for details.)

Despite challenges, including a significant outbreak of violence and the displacement crisis of 2006,¹ Timor-Leste has been successful in its development trajectory, prioritizing security sector reforms, investing in human resources, building and strengthening infrastructure and state institutions, and, later, aligning its Strategic Development Plan with the 2030 Agenda. With the goal of becoming a Middle-Income Country by 2030, Timor-Leste has also focused on empowering its majority youth population and promoting their political and economic inclusion in development processes. Timor-Leste has one of the youngest populations in the world — 39 percent of the population is under the age of 15 and 74 percent are under 35.

In 2030, Timor-Leste will be a high-income country, prosperous, free and in peace. The rule of law state will be consolidated. Excellencies... I do not want to think of another scenario.

— H.E. José Ramos Horta GColIH GCL
Former President of Timor-Leste and Eminent Person of the g7+

DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16+ TARGETS AND 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES

- + 16.5 Corruption and Bribery
- + 16.6 Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions at all Levels
- + 16.7 Inclusive and Participatory Decision-Making
- + 16.b Non-discriminatory Laws and Policies

2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES HIGHLIGHTED BELOW—SDG 4 (EDUCATION), SDG 5 (GENDER EQUALITY), SDG 8 (ECONOMIC GROWTH), AND SDG 10 (REDUCED INEQUALITIES)

SOLUTIONS

- + Truth and Reconciliation Commissions
- + Community-Driven Governance and Development
- + Anti-Corruption Efforts: Public Finance Management Trainings, Audits and Public-Private Partnerships
- + Inclusive Social and Education Policies



Left: From left to right: Mr. Jordan Street, Saferworld; Ms. Estelle Duluc, Institut Français Timor-Leste; and Mr. David Andersson, International Consultant

Right: From left to right: Mr. Essohanam Petchezi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Togo to the UN; H.E. Faizullah Zaki, Ambassador of



Afghanistan to Indonesia; H.E. Julio Cardenas, Ambassador of Peru to Indonesia; Mr. Jagdish Kumar Ayer, Association of Youth Organizations of Nepal; Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, NGO Federation of Nepal and the Nepal SDGs Forum; and Prof. Ir. Bramantyo Djohanputro, UN Global Compact Network and the PPM Management Business School

Commission for Truth and Friendship (CTF)

The 25-year Indonesian occupation, and the human rights violations committed during that time continue to impact Timorese society and the country's development. The CTF was established in March 2005 to provide a framework for reconciliation and to prevent future violence between Timor-Leste and Indonesia through two primary drivers: reforming and strengthening national institutions, and victim-oriented programming. The CTF's final report,

Through Memories Towards Hope, was published in July 2008. It estimates Timorese casualties during the occupation to include approximately 180,000 deaths, 100,000 displaced and an additional 1,000 disappeared. While the Timorese resistance movement committed some human rights violations, Indonesia's Government, military and police forces were found responsible for the majority of crimes against humanity.

Centro Nacional Chega!

While the recommendations of the CAVR and CTF were successfully published and publicized by the Government, Timor-Leste continues to be challenged by weak implementation. In an effort to remedy this situation, and in response to pressure from CSOs, the CNC was established in 2017 to complement implementation efforts. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the CNC has developed educational materials and trainings, integrating its findings into school curricula to present a holistic view of Timor-Leste's colonial history by including diverse perspectives and conflict narratives. In order to ground firsthand experiences of the conflict within historical narratives, the CNC launched a project focusing on the intergenerational transmission of memories. Through this project, youth document stories of occupation from their parents and grandparents, aiming to address existing gaps in recorded historical accounts. The CNC also oversees the Government's progress towards implementation, reviewing plans to develop new policies and programs. Organizations such as Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) and the Chega! Association Ba Ita (ACbit) also work to empower victims of human rights violations, working to improve access to justice and provide legal recourse while supporting state institutions to further the implementation of the TRC's recommendations.

Mechanisms

The CAVR and the CTF have both become models for successful reconciliation that are now being adapted by countries as diverse as Australia and the Solomon Islands. In fact, the Auschwitz Center for Truth and Reconciliation recently conducted a study on Timor-Leste's TRC, among a few select others, as part of its efforts to prevent acts of mass atrocities and genocide.

The recommendations of the CTF place particular focus on financial institutions and the development and

diversification of Timor-Leste's economy. The Government of Indonesia continues to invest in and support development projects throughout Timor-Leste, and in 2018, trade between the two nations reached USD 229 million, with additional opportunities to be explored, notably in the fishing and textile industries.

Working together on victim-oriented programs, the two Governments have also reunited children who were separated from their families during the Indonesian

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONS

Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR)

Shortly following the restoration of independence in 2002, Timor-Leste established the CAVR, which aims to ascertain truths about human rights violations committed during the Indonesian occupation, identify ways to prevent abuses in the future, help restore the dignity of victims working in partnership with the Office of the Prosecutor

General, and help reintegrate perpetrators of minor crimes into their communities. The CAVR's findings informed recommendations published in the Commission's final report, *Chega!*, in early 2005.²



Left: Mr. Hugo Fernandes, Centro Nacional Chega! (Far right)



Right: Cultural Performance during the field visit to East Timor Development Agency

occupation. The forced separation of children from their families was a direct violation of both the *Geneva Convention* and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and the CTF called for the establishment of a Commission for the Disappeared as well as an annual Senior Official Meeting to monitor and review progress. However, it has been two years since the last Meeting, and the Commission is yet to be established. While organizations such as AJAR, the CNC and the ACbit have worked to support the reunion program and progress continues to be made (two days prior to the start of the 2019 Annual Showcase, 14 children who had been living in Indonesia were reunited with their

families in Timor-Leste), thousands more are still missing. The Indonesian Government has reiterated its support for the program. However, it has also asked Timor-Leste to provide specific data on those still missing, which is an extremely difficult, if not effectively impossible, task.

As such, while reconciliation with Indonesia has had significant, positive components, a number of unresolved issues remain for individual victims, and broader society. Efforts to realize “the rights of survivors to choose their citizenship” must therefore be maintained.

Conflicting Narratives of Reconciliation, Process vs. Project

While the published findings of the CTF and the CAVR present a historical account of the complex relationship between the two countries, the discord between official and unofficial (community-level) historical narratives, both within Timor-Leste and between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, needs to be addressed. Within Timor-Leste, these conflicting narratives of reconciliation are understood as the discord between project and process, with the narrative of the government as the “project” aimed at improving relations with Indonesia and fostering an environment conducive to development, and the narrative of the victims being the “process” that directly engages the people of Timor-Leste and Indonesia and is a part of their daily lives. Frustrated by inefficiencies that further this discord, an anonymous participant from Ermera, said, “justice hasn’t been done for the victims’ families at the grassroots level because generally data collection activities haven’t reached many families who live in the villages.” Strengthening efforts to collect these community-level narratives, and developing a shared understanding based on official and unofficial narratives, can weave together a unifying conflict narrative that reflects the lived memories of the occupation and supports the Government’s desire to strengthen its relationship with Indonesia.

“[...] our government, they teach our young people to commemorate, and to think about the past, so that we can learn from the past. But we also celebrate national youth day, where we start to think about what we should be [doing] in the present, and what we need to start to do tomorrow.”

— Maria Abrantes, Former Youth Parliamentarian, Timor-Leste

In addition, narrative divides between Indonesia and Timor-Leste also continue to be a source of tension. With Indonesian students being taught that Timor-Leste was a part of Indonesia from 1975 to 1999, without mention of the occupation, a common and unified narrative may help ease tensions and further reconciliation efforts between the two countries.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Suku Development Plan³

With the goal of improving ‘socio-economic conditions and local governance in villages through community-managed infrastructure,’ Timor-Leste’s Suku Development Plan (SDP) is a community-driven program that: a) ensures citizen participation in local and national development processes, b) provides social and economic benefits, especially to marginalized citizens, and, c) accelerates infrastructure development, thereby improving public service delivery and access to justice at the village level. With state funding support, communities participate in identifying key issues, drafting project

proposals, building necessary infrastructure and executing locally tailored programs using a development model centered on local ownership. The SDP also works to ensure female participation in development and decision-making processes. The Suku Election Law (2016), requires the participation of at least one woman in every village election, and despite slow progress, female leaders have increased from 2.5 to 5 percent. Through the SDP, Village Chiefs act as a bridge between local and national development processes by identifying priorities for development.

ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS: PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT TRAININGS, AUDITS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Ministry of Finance

Increasing transparency and accountability are priority areas for Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Finance. It instituted public finance management trainings in 2002 to address widespread corruption, especially within the oil and gas sector, both in response to an increase in the national budget from USD72 million in 2002 to USD1.5 billion in 2014, and to diversify the economy. The Ministry’s efforts included decentralizing the infrastructure sector, creating an internal government-wide auditing system, followed by financial “deconcentration,” granting fiscal

autonomy to public agencies and municipalities, in 2015. Between 2015 and 2016, the Ministry tested the proficiency of 1,923 public finance management professionals across all state institutions, subsequently training 1,347 professionals who did not meet the newly established academic qualification standards. Four online transparency portals were also introduced in 2011 to allow citizens to monitor the Government’s budget spending and other financial activities, thereby increasing public participation.

Timor-Leste’s Petroleum Fund and the Tibar Bay Port Project

Timor-Leste’s Petroleum Fund aims to grow and strengthen the resilience of the national economy through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. The Government is working to increase the Fund’s transparency with the support of the Norwegian Government (which has drawn on the successes of its petroleum fund) and Timor-Leste’s own public finance management regulations that require regular reports of the Fund’s operations and finances. While the Fund’s revenue has so far been directed primarily towards providing financial and social aid to veterans, female-headed households, the elderly and poor families, and towards large-scale infrastructure development projects, the Government is exploring new ways to use the fund to further support education, health and sanitation for youth. Relatedly, the nation’s dependence on oil has proven to be challenging especially in terms of balancing economic and ecological resilience.

In light of this, and in an attempt to both reduce dependence on natural resources and increase foreign investment in infrastructure, the Ministry of Finance created a Public Private Partnership Unit (PPP) in 2013 and established a mechanism through which the Petroleum Fund could directly contribute to PPP projects. With the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Ministry subsequently launched a modern port construction project in Tibar Bay through a competitive and transparent tender process (addressing strong operational performance requirements and environmental and social standards). Expected to be operational by the end of 2021, the Tibar Bay Port project will contribute to economic diversification and create skilled employment opportunities for youth, further aiming to strengthen links between Timor-Leste, the Asia Pacific region and the global economy.⁴



INCLUSIVE SOCIAL AND EDUCATION POLICIES

Maubisse Declaration

The Government of Timor-Leste signed the Maubisse Declaration in partnership with UN Women shortly after the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 to further efforts towards building “an economically and socially modern and developed society...based on the principles of inclusion, tolerance and gender equality.” The Declaration is designed in part to complement the Convention regarding the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and focuses on increasing state support for women and girls living in rural areas.⁵ In supporting these goals, the Ministry of Education has partnered with public schools to prevent dropouts, with a focus on females and especially targeting pregnant girls and teenage mothers. It has also implemented a zero-tolerance policy on gender-based violence (GBV) in schools and is working to provide girls with clean water and better sanitation facilities.

National Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities

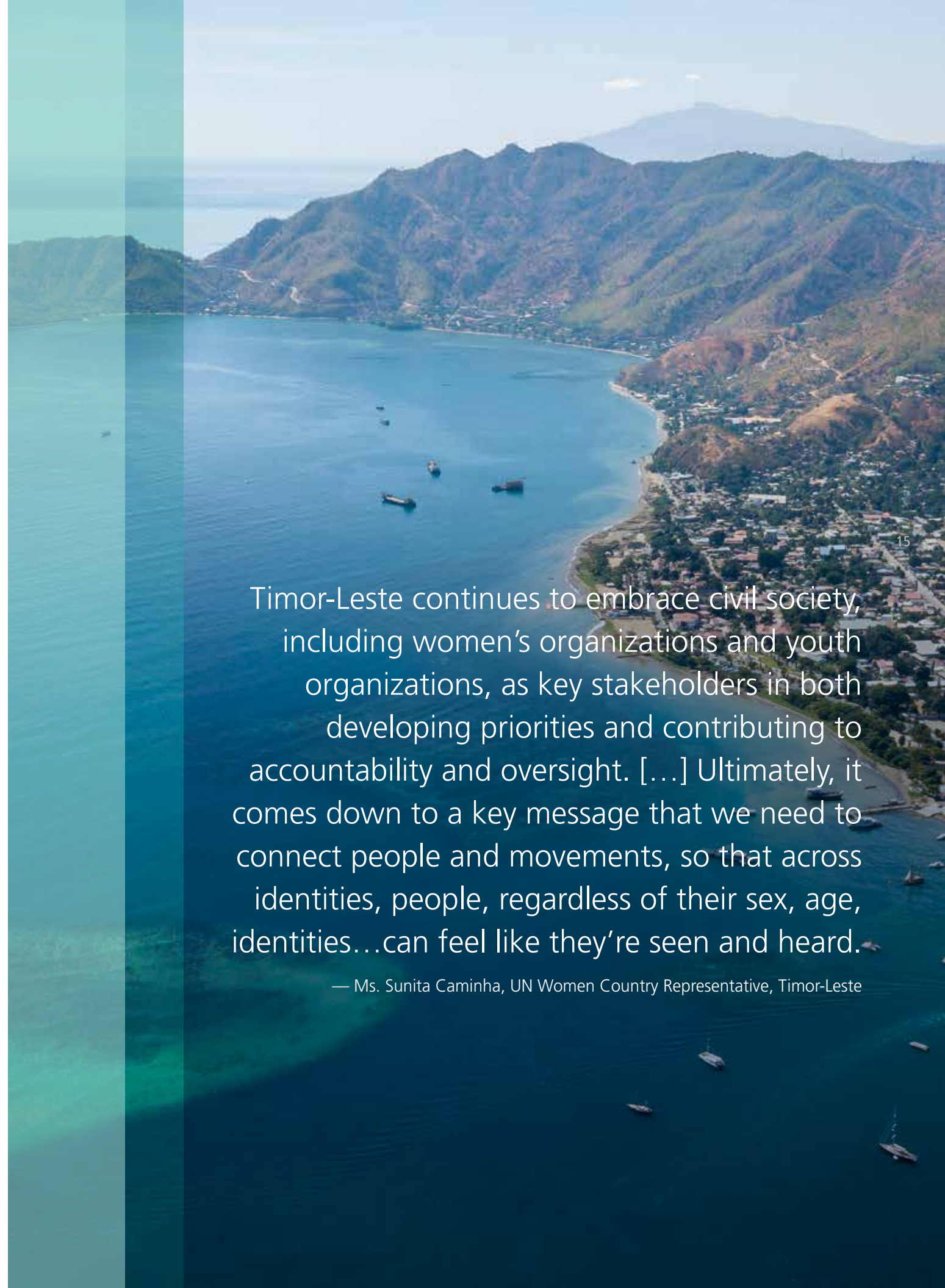
Timor-Leste instituted a National Policy for the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Disabled Persons in 2012. This guarantees disabled citizens the same rights and duties governing all citizens, while working towards increasing access to education for disabled students by 40 percent, and providing social protection measures for people with disabilities, including financial subsidies for their care. A resolution that calls for the ratification of the *Convention on People with Disabilities* to be administered by the

The Declaration also calls for the adoption of gender equality policies in the agricultural sector and the introduction of gender-sensitive and gender-aggregated data collection.⁶ Phase two of the Maubisse Declaration (2018-2023) is now being implemented by the 17 state institutions that originally signed the Declaration in 2015.⁷

Similarly, Timor-Leste’s Civil Service Commission has worked closely with the Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, and in 2018, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women to address cultural norms in public offices, reduce sexual harassment in the workplace, promote gender equality and create equal opportunities.

Ministry of Social Solidarity was also recently approved by Parliament. Going forward, the Ministry has inspired a review of the National Policy to ensure that its countrywide implementation is in line with international frameworks and standards. CSOs, too, have been advocating for a restructured budget that better responds to the needs of people with disabilities.

From left to right: Ms. Celia Lopes, Timor-Leste National Youth Council; H.E. Faizullah Zaki, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Indonesia; H.E. Julio Cardenas, Ambassador of Peru to Indonesia; H.E. Dionisio Babo Soares, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste; Ms. Bylah da Costa, Belun; and colleagues



Timor-Leste continues to embrace civil society, including women’s organizations and youth organizations, as key stakeholders in both developing priorities and contributing to accountability and oversight. [...] Ultimately, it comes down to a key message that we need to connect people and movements, so that across identities, people, regardless of their sex, age, identities...can feel like they’re seen and heard.

— Ms. Sunita Caminha, UN Women Country Representative, Timor-Leste



Private-Sector Engagement and SDG 16+ Workshop



Break-out Session: Voluntary National Reviews post-HLPF 2019: Strengthening National-level Implementation and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

RECONCILIATION, STRONG INSTITUTIONS AND INCLUSION: VIEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Amidst growing distrust of governments and institutions globally, addressing issues of marginalization and systems of inclusion vs. exclusion, ineffective or repressive governance, and institutional legitimacy is of critical importance. Indeed, the development process undertaken by the Czech Republic following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 highlights the importance of inclusion and strong state institutions. Creating safe spaces for citizens to actively engage in decision-making processes and undertake collaborative projects in their communities has contributed to inclusive development and governance in the Czech Republic, despite current challenges. It has also helped achieve the lowest OECD inequality rate, with efforts further complemented by an SDGs-aligned, 2030 Strategic Framework.

Building on Timor-Leste's lessons-learned, global perspectives from local, national and international levels were also offered. Noting challenges and successes, best practices around truth and reconciliation commissions were highlighted, along with inclusive public

administration, legislative and decision-making policies; anti-corruption commissions and addressing cultures of impunity; linking complementary frameworks and protecting civic space; and the importance of local governance and local actors.

DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS AND 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES

- | | |
|--|--|
| + 16.5 Corruption and Bribery | + 16.7 Inclusive and Participatory Decision-Making |
| + 16.6 Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions at all Levels | + 16.b Non-discriminatory Laws and Policies |

PRIMARY 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES HIGHLIGHTED BELOW — SDG 4 (EDUCATION), SDG 5 (GENDER EQUALITY), SDG 8 (ECONOMIC GROWTH), AND SDG 10 (REDUCED INEQUALITIES)

SOLUTIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| + Truth and Reconciliation Commissions | + Linking Complementary Agendas: SDG 16, Youth and Climate |
| + Gender, Public Administration and Inclusive Decision-Making | + Reconciliation through Trade |
| + Anti-Corruption Commissions, Addressing Impunity and Education | |

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONS

Consultation Taskforce on Reconciliation Mechanisms, Sri Lanka

After the end of the military conflict in Sri Lanka in 2009, no formal mechanism of reconciliation and peacebuilding was established. Following a significant push from civil society to advance justice and address human rights violations in conflict-affected communities through formal processes, the Government created the Consultation Taskforce on Reconciliation Mechanisms (CTR) in 2016. In 2017, the CTR, comprising 11 members from civil society (6 women and 5 men) made the following recommendations: a) establish an overall monitoring body for all mechanisms, which includes

representatives from affected families, human rights and civil society groups, and the international community; b) enshrine the rights to truth, justice and reparations within the Constitution; c) improve accountability via criminal justice reforms; and d) create laws to prosecute past crimes without impunity and to criminalize forced disappearances in line with international human rights laws. Thus far, only the Office of Missing Persons has been established which, while significant, comes at the heels of other challenged efforts to improve state accountability.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Sierra Leone

Established in 1999, and operating from 2002-2004, Sierra Leone's TRC (discussed at the 2018 Showcase) recommended establishing a Commission of Peace and National Cohesion. While the current President reiterated his commitment to establishing the Commission through a Presidential Initiative in May 2019, political tensions have delayed the Commission's establishment thus far.⁸ Nevertheless, the Government aims for the Commission to be established by an Act of Parliament this year.

recommendations over a decade later, Sierra Leone launched the Free Quality Education Initiative (FQEI) in 2018 to further its reconciliation efforts. While the Government has allocated 21 percent of the national budget to education and the number of qualified teachers has increased, challenges around attendance, teacher salaries, inadequate resources and overcrowding remain in parts of the country.⁹ Through sustained multi-stakeholder engagement, Sierra Leone is working to overcome these challenges.

Another key recommendation of the TRC was to prioritize education. Following a review of the TRC's

GENDER, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

Against a variety of challenges, the following highlights innovative approaches to improving gender equality, including indigenous women's political inclusion, at various levels and including through complementary frameworks, such as *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* (UNSCR 1325). UNSCR 1325 highlights women's roles and the importance of women's inclusion in all formal peace processes and post-conflict rebuilding efforts to ensure

lasting peace and security. It also recognizes women's disproportionate experience of conflict-related violence, and contains several operational mandates for member states to strengthen women's inclusion and address GBV in conflict and post-conflict settings through National Action Plans. Alongside UNSCR 1325, the UN has adopted ten other resolutions, which together comprise the 'Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.'

Gender Equality in Public Administration, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP's Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) initiative's global report based on a study of 13 countries makes a case for institutional diversity in public institutions, demonstrating the correlation

between increased gender equality within public institutions, increased access to healthcare, sanitation and electricity and higher enrollment in secondary and upper secondary schools. Through its programming,

In Timor-Leste, our strategic development is driven by petroleum...oil and minerals. This might be okay for now because we have these resources but one day we will run out. By developing the agroforestry sector and using the revenue to drive development, we can directly increase the sustainability of the SDGs — especially SDG 16 and SDG 15 — and live in peace.

— Leopoldina Joanna Guterres, Community Engagement and Forestry Expert, WithOneSeed, Timor-Leste



GEPA awards a 'Gender Equality Seal' that: a) sets standards, including performance standards based on regional and international commitments and agreements; b) offers a strategy and concrete action roadmap to implement institutional commitments to gender parity;

c) links organizational structure with employment practices and policy outcomes; and, d) highlights best practices and increases accountability towards achieving equality.¹⁰ Since its launch in 2009, GEPA has awarded more than 600 Seals.

Proportional Representation System, Nepal

Participants discussed three kinds of electoral systems (majority, proportional and mixed) associated with democratic governance. In Nepal, the Constituent Assembly Member Election Act (2007) instituted a proportional representation (quota) system to ensure that the Constituent Assembly's (CA) membership included 33 percent women. Despite slow progress, this has helped raise the number of women in the CA to 175 (of 601 total members) and in civil service to 10.6 percent in 2014. During the first local elections in twenty years in 2017, women held 41 percent of posts in federal, provincial and national governments.

7 women were elected mayors of municipalities, 11 chairpersons of rural municipalities, 276 deputy mayors and 424 vice chairs of rural municipalities (also a result of the 1999 *Local Self Governance Act* mandating 40 percent reservation for women in the local municipal council). About 6,500 Dalit (the most marginalized caste group in Hindu society) women are among 14,000 female elected representatives who now occupy decision-making positions in government.^{11,12} Yet, despite representation, gender biases and stereotypes impede women's full participation in fulfilling their judicial and executive duties as elected members of the state.

Progressive Gender Inclusion Legislation, Sweden

Likewise, using progressive laws to ensure gender equality in all sectors, including governance, and through the efforts of women legislators in particular, the feminist government of Sweden has now ensured that women make up 44 percent of the Swedish parliament (compared to the EU (28) and North

America (22)). The Gender Equality Agency works with government agencies to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective across operations and offices through the Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies program.¹³

Women's Groups and UNSCR 1325, Colombia

In Colombia, women's groups collectively mobilized to demand their inclusion in formal peace processes. Their advocacy was complemented by inclusion efforts from within the state, pressure from the international community and the adoption of UNSCR 1325. Their combined efforts led to the creation of a Gender Commission that participated in the peace agreement,

incorporating a hundred gender measures that are now being implemented alongside the SDGs. The Commission also focuses on increasing rural women's political participation. Continued success of the Commission, however, depends on maintaining internal and external pressures to sustain inclusion and ensure government accountability.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSIONS, ADDRESSING IMPUNITY AND EDUCATION

Independent Commission Against Corruption, Fiji

The Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption, working with the Ministry of Education, has created a National Anti-Corruption Curriculum (NACC) that integrates anti-corruption themes, activities, and games in Social Studies curricula for years 5-8, and into English, History, Accounting, and Social Science curricula for years 9-13, in a sweeping effort to address the country's widespread struggle with corruption. However, in the course of developing the curriculum, it became apparent that there was no equivalent to the term 'corruption' in the local language. Hence, 'corruption' was integrated with locally relevant notions of 'values' and 'ethics' to create a backdrop of cultural know-how, which enabled the localization of the SDG 16+ anti-corruption agenda. Piloted in 2019, the NACC is poised to complement other anti-corruption efforts, such as the 'Good Kiddo Program,' which teaches young children about

corruption and its effects, while imparting values of 'trust, honesty, obedience, and respect'—using a superhero as a mascot (pictured here).¹⁴ Marking the impact of these efforts, two students who recently returned a lost wallet without having touched its contents have effectively become anti-corruption ambassadors following extensive media coverage.



It is important that we make this link between the issue of climate change and youth. They are the future, and if we do not do anything today, we will leave behind a legacy of disaster for the future.

— Demetrio do Carvalho
Secretary of State for the Environment of Timor-Leste

Anti-Corruption Commission (CAC), Timor-Leste

The CAC was created in 2010 following Timor-Leste's ratification of the *UN Convention against Corruption* in 2008. The country continues to battle widespread corruption with 77 percent of respondents to a Corruption Perception Survey in 2015 identifying it as one of the country's three most significant challenges alongside unemployment and poverty.¹⁵ In collaboration with the public sector, civil society and international agencies, the CAC works to raise awareness and prevent and investigate crimes of corruption through three key focus areas: a) a shared development vision that meets constitutional requirements; b) development of social capital, infrastructure and economy within an effective institutional framework that contributes to

eliminating corruption and excessive bureaucracy and that promotes competence, professionalism, honesty and transparency; and c) reducing extreme poverty, inequalities and regional asymmetries, and strengthening national sovereignty. The CAC has partnered with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), receiving technical assistance and training to strengthen the nation's legal framework for combating corruption by drafting and ratifying an anti-corruption law.¹⁶ Prior to the Annual Showcase, the CAC was investigating 19 cases of corruption, having already referred 90 cases to the Office of the Prosecutor General, two of which resulted in arrests under the Anti-Money Laundering Law of 2011.¹⁷

20

Spotlight on Human Rights Defenders, Civic Space and Media

Integrating Human Rights and SDG 16+ frameworks can be critical to protecting Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) fighting for civil, political, social, cultural or economic rights, including journalists, religious leaders, LGBTIQ+ activists, environmental defenders, political activists, lawyers, indigenous people, bloggers, and traditional human rights workers. A pattern of using legislation to criminalize HRDs is emerging globally. International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Global Witness found that on average, more than three Environmental Rights Defenders were murdered globally every week in 2018.¹⁸ In 2019, the Philippines registered the highest number of unsolved murders of journalists in the past ten years.

Progress towards SDG 16.10 is especially challenging as civic spaces shrink and access to credible information is threatened by the erosion of journalistic integrity globally. However, a shadow assessment of progress towards SDG16 in Ghana by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) finds that media can, and often does play a critical role in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies by improving civic participation in governance decisions, increasing information dissemination about rights and laws, and raising awareness about the SDGs.¹⁹

SPOTLIGHT ON SDG 16+ AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change poses significant challenges to advancing SDG16 through its effects on national and human security, as well as political, economic and social stability.²⁰ Effective governance frameworks and justice institutions are critical to managing environmental costs and benefits, and tackling the impacts of climate change, especially as climate-induced instability not only escalates the occurrence of violent conflict, but also attenuates the capacity of states to prevent and mitigate such conflicts.²¹ Strengthening the efficacy of national governance institutions and fostering greater international cooperation and commitment to manage climate impacts are therefore critical to the Climate-SDG16+ agenda.

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Climate-Driven Policy as linked to SDG 16+, the Marshall Islands

As a small island state (SIS) and atoll nation (i.e. including thin strips of land that are only a meter above sea level without mountains or other higher ground), the Marshall Islands is particularly vulnerable to climate change. As a significant part of daily life, climate change directly impacts ecological security, while also affecting national security and development capacity by posing particular threats to coastal and farming communities. In tackling these intersecting issues, the Marshall

Islands has unique lessons to offer the international community about creating multilateral, climate-driven policies that connect security (including national security policies) and stability (including economic policies) concerns through a common framework addressing the multi-sector impacts of climate change. Such an approach stands to have policy relevance beyond SIS for countries across the Global North and South.

LINKING COMPLEMENTARY AGENDAS: SDG 16, YOUTH AND CLIMATE

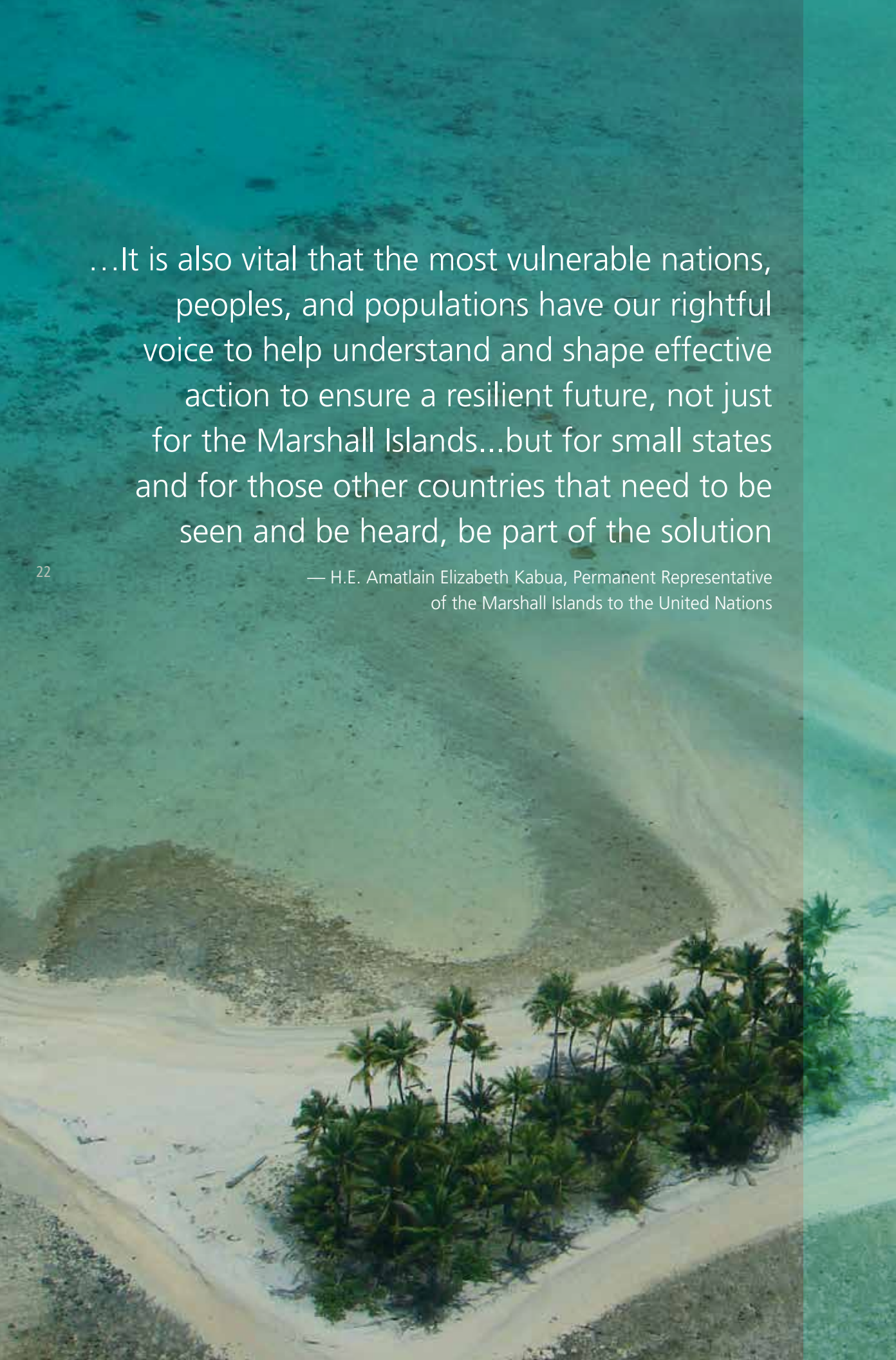
The Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, which highlights the role of young people as peacebuilders and positive agents of change, is based on five action areas: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration. Since its initial UN Security Council Resolution adoption in 2015 (UNSCR 2250), a second resolution has also been passed (UNSCR 2419), along with *The Missing Peace: An Independent Progress Study on YPS*, further demonstrating young people's role in sustaining peace.

There are 1.2 billion young people (15-24 years) globally, comprising 16 percent of the world's population in 2019.²² Africa has the highest youth population, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia have the second highest youth population at 307 million.²³ Operationalizing links between YPS and SDG 16+, particularly in terms of inclusion and access to decision making in addressing the growing climate crisis, is of increasing relevance across contexts.²⁴

National Youth Dialogue, the Marshall Islands

The National Youth Dialogue facilitates youth involvement in the Marshall Islands' climate policy, recognizing that youth share a greater stake in both the responsibilities towards and vulnerabilities of climate change. The Marshall Islands has a large youth vote, which it mobilized to co-lead the 2019 UN Secretary General Climate Action Summit (along with Ireland), where it highlighted the need for youth voices to be better heard by political decision-makers. The Marshall Islands also mobilized

the support of civil society, while streamlining youth participation across all areas of work. In addition, the Marshall Islands sponsors the Global Kwon-Gesh Pledge (Kwon means pact and Gesh means sacred), which commits nations to involve youth more closely and directly in national policy and decision-making on climate change. At present, 40 countries have signed the pledge.²⁵



...It is also vital that the most vulnerable nations, peoples, and populations have our rightful voice to help understand and shape effective action to ensure a resilient future, not just for the Marshall Islands...but for small states and for those other countries that need to be seen and be heard, be part of the solution

— H.E. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua, Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations

Youth Empowering Climate Action, Chad

In Chad, climate change has progressively shifted rainfall patterns, shrinking the size of the country's largest source of freshwater, Lake Chad, by 90 percent. This has impacted the quality of life of the surrounding communities and prompted a forced out-of-season migration of farmers and pastoralists. Working with 54 schools in 6 regions, a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Espaces Verts du Sahel (EVS) (Green Spaces of the Sahel), has created a plan to

promote sustainable development through education to address this problem. EVS develops training modules to transform students into 'young experts' on a variety of topics across the 17 SDGs, including the environment (and environmental change), democracy, and human rights with a total of 17 related topics. The aim of such trainings is to empower youth to subsequently train other members of their community and lead local sustainable development projects and processes.

The Association of Youth Organizations of Nepal (AYON) was established in 2005 as a platform for collaboration, cooperation and joint action. By establishing successful partnerships with 92 youth organizations under its umbrella, AYON has been able to work in 44 districts in Nepal while working towards extending its services to 75 districts. Partnering with several international organizations, including the UN, AYON has contributed to youth capacity building in various realms, improving: a) good governance and civic engagement with regard to accessible and inclusive electoral and political rights; b) ensuring meaningful youth participation in policy-making; c) promoting gender equity and equality; d) sexual and reproductive health rights; e) climate action; f) humanitarian support and g) localizing SDGs.

RECONCILIATION THROUGH TRADE

A Step to a Better Future, Georgia

The Georgian Government's plan for development in its occupied territories, A Step to a Better Future, is designed to support reconciliation by creating opportunities for economic growth. The plan is composed of three main dimensions: a) facilitating trade across the dividing lines by enabling the occupied territories to access the same markets as Georgia, and by granting special taxpayer status to those engaging in such cross-border trade; b) enhancing educational opportunities, both in Georgia and abroad, for residents of the occupied territories through government subsidies; and, c) improving access to various state services for

residents of the occupied territories, from obtaining Georgian citizenship to the provision of free healthcare. Through this plan, the government incentivizes individuals in these territories to engage with Georgia for economic development, thereby furthering reconciliation. For instance, through the Enterprise for a Better Future initiative, the government actively supports and provides funding to businesses throughout Georgia and the occupied territories. In its first round in March 2019, the state funded 20 of the most viable proposals it received (368 in total), 75 percent of which were from the occupied territories.²⁶



PEACE, PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

From highly localized levels to international peace processes, reducing violence and fostering peace and prevention is central to SDG 16+, requiring both a historical and forward-looking approach. The global prevalence of conflict has also escalated such that, without a concerted effort to address its root causes, more than half of the world's poor will live in conflict-affected areas by 2030.

DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS AND 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES

- + 16.1 Reducing all Forms of Violence
- + 16.2 Ending Abuse, Exploitation, Trafficking and All Violence and Torture Against Children
- + 16.a International Institutions to Prevent Violence, Terrorism and Crime

PRIMARY 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES HIGHLIGHTED BELOW — SDG 1 (ENDING POVERTY), SDG 4 (EDUCATION), SDG 5 (GENDER EQUALITY), SDG 6 (CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION), SDG 8 (DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH), SDG 13 (CLIMATE ACTION) & SDG 15 (LIFE ON LAND)

SOLUTIONS

- + Bridging Formal and Informal Peace Processes
- + Community-level Dialogues, Early Warning, Early Response and Community-Based Policing
- + National Planning Commissions and National Action Plans
- + Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging Comparative Advantage
- + Linking Complementary Agendas: YPS, WPS and SDG 16

Within this broad framing and amidst increasingly strained and frayed social fabrics globally, discussions focused on the centrality of localization to peace, prevention and resilience; bridging informal and formal processes; linking national level policies, programs and

action plans with local-level impact and vice versa; addressing GBV at all levels; the centrality of land and land reforms; and connecting complementary international frameworks.

BRIDGING THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL IN PEACE PROCESSES, COMMUNITY DIALOGUES AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

While formal peace processes are critical, 'informal' processes involving person-to-person and community peacebuilding play a significant role in sustaining peace at local and national levels. Community dialogues, local ownership, gender-responsiveness, and language as a tool for more effective community-based policing, all featured in discussions grounded in resilience and impact in fostering peaceful societies.

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BRIDGING FORMAL AND INFORMAL PEACE PROCESSES

Ceasefire Agreement, Peace Commission & Informal Peace Dialogues, Myanmar

Following the end of the 60-year armed conflict and the arrival of the new Government in 2011, the peace process in Myanmar began as a series of negotiations between the Government and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), culminating in a nationwide ceasefire in 2013. However, as negotiations failed, conflict resumed, and EAOs and the Government have been trying to find a permanent resolution through formal and informal peace processes since. In October 2015, 10 EAOs signed the government's National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) marking the beginning of the formal peace process. Yet, armed conflict between EAOs in the north

that did not sign the NCA (the Northern Alliance) and the government has continued. However, negotiations towards an inclusive and unifying bilateral ceasefire agreement have taken place through several dozen informal peace dialogues between the Union Peace Commission and the Northern Alliance, including a recent meeting in September 2019.²⁷ Within this context, CSOs have been working to bridge the gap between formal and informal processes, advocating for greater inclusion in formal negotiations and recommending effective community engagement strategies to the Government.

Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Processes, Myanmar

Women's disproportionate experience of conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar has inspired a significant women's movement in the country. Civil society in Myanmar is strong and actively involved in civic and political processes, with women's groups being particularly well-organized. Yet, significant gender gaps remain.²⁸ While women's inclusion was sporadic at best in the negotiations for 14 bilateral ceasefire agreements between the state and various ethnic armed organizations, three ethnic armed groups' negotiating teams included women. Likewise, while women's CSOs participated as observers and advocates in the peace processes, they were severely underrepresented when compared to men. (This is despite the fact that women's inclusion and participation in peace processes has shown a 35

percent increase in the probability that a peace agreement holds for at least 15 years).²⁹

To address these gaps, the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Processes engages in continued advocacy to ensure progress towards gender parity, working in partnership with other organizations, including those that contribute to the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women and the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Act.³⁰ Last year, the Alliance conducted capacity-building trainings for women leaders in conflict-affected regions and communities and engaged in discussions with political parties to strengthen and further their gender policies.

Peace is the work of responsible and organized citizens and communities at the local level, the regional, and national. Peace is not, I repeat, is not and cannot be built by the UN. It is time we recognize and act on the constraints that civil society organizations meet on the ground level and move away from the narrative that civil society organizations and grassroots organizations are so badly disorganized.

— Joao Boavida, Founder and Executive Director, CEPAD

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Break-out Session: Advancing SDG 16+: A Focus on Data

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES, EARLY WARNING, EARLY RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING

Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) and Interpeace, Timor-Leste

CEPAD, in partnership with Interpeace, has been supporting peacebuilding efforts in Timor-Leste since 2007. Their first national consultation process included the Dialogue for Peace initiative, which through community consultations in all 13 districts of Timor-Leste produced 33 key priorities for action. These were distilled down to 4 key issue areas, of which two were pursued — priority one, balancing individual and political party interests and national interest, and priority four, corruption, collusion, and nepotism. CEPAD

implements actions towards these goals using two inclusive mechanisms to create responsive, mutual accountability policies at local and national levels: a 'permanent civic education campaign' that incorporates the right to information, and a comprehensive anti-corruption package promoting the adoption of national policies and laws based on recommendations.³¹ CEPAD has also established six Peace Houses to provide safe spaces for community-level conflict resolution.



In the next phase of the country's development, we need to ensure that the progress that has been made in strengthening peace, security and electoral systems over the past 20 years, [is] enhanced by a greater emphasis on strengthening institutional and individual capacities of all citizens. We need to continue to improve governance systems and the quality of public services. Central to achieving these things is gender equality and inclusion of all citizens regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, abilities or other factors.

— Mr. Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste

Belun and Early Warning, Early Response (EWER), Timor-Leste

Similar to the work being done by WANEP in Sierra Leone, (highlighted at the 2018 Annual Showcase), Belun has developed an EWER program in Timor-Leste to determine the underlying causes of conflict through community monitors who report incidents of violence at the local level, and municipal coordinators who monitor progress, verify reports and work in collaboration with the latter to produce strong, usable data. Belun also actively engages local actors in planning processes, facilitating local ownership to expedite efforts to identify local threats to peace and create speedy

solutions. Using the EWER mechanism, Belun issues alerts that announce identified threats and threat patterns. For instance, an EWER alert from July 2018 noted the incidence of 107 electoral crimes and violent incidents during the consolidation and campaign phases of the 2018 parliamentary election. Belun also launched a community-policing project, Conflict Prevention and Response Networks (CPRN) in 2010, to complement the work of the EWER system, and has so far set-up CPRN units in 43 of Timor-Leste's 65 districts.

Community Policing Training, Sri Lanka

The inclusion of minority language teaching in community policing training for Sinhala officers has enhanced their ability to communicate with victims and survivors in Tamil areas. Officers' GBV training also promotes a survivor-centered approach to combat practices of victim blaming. Three police units have been created to more fully address gender challenges:

the Child and Women's unit, the vulnerable persons unit and the GBV unit. Language training and shifting policing doctrine from a securitized approach to a community-centered service-oriented approach are necessary to effect real change and further address GBV at all levels.

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS, COMPLEMENTARY AGENDAS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Advancing SDG 16+ at the national level, including through national commissions and action plans, often involves community level processes, the outcomes of which then determine success at the national level. Leveraging partnerships and complementary agendas can support implementation at local, national and international levels, strengthening impact and streamlining resources. The Spotlight Initiative, for example, involves a partnership between the European Union (EU) and five UN agencies (UNDP, UN Women, UN Population Fund, UNICEF and UNODC) to eliminate violence against women and girls. The EU has committed €500 million to the Spotlight Initiative's global implementation efforts.



From left to right: H.E. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN; H.E. Marie Chatardova, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN; H.E. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN; H.E. Maria Helena Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the UN; H.E. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua, Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the UN; and H.E. Alie Kabba, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN

Breakout-out Session: Security Sector Reform, Community-based Policing and Addressing Gender-based Violence



NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AND NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

National Planning Commission, Nepal

Advancing SDG 16+ at the national level, including through national commissions and action plans, often involves community level processes, the outcomes of which then determine success at the national level. Leveraging partnerships and complementary agendas can support implementation at local, national and international levels, strengthening impact and stream-

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National Action Plans (NAPs) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the Philippines and Timor-Leste

In the Philippines, the NAP on WPS (2011-2016) brought together various women's movements, offering a roadmap to institutionalize and operationalize targets associated with SDG16+ at national and local levels. The NAP links gender and development budgets (usually deployed by 'peace and order councils'), and its successful implementation hinges on local ownership of needs assessments, which revealed three key concerns corresponding to different SDGs: emotional and psychological effects of conflict, GBV, and economic burden. At the same time, resource-related struggles, especially 'land-related issues such as encroachment, boundary conflicts, illegal titling on ancestral domains and lands, mining, logging, dispossession and displacement' were identified as key conflict drivers. In addition, women in conflict-zones have suffered increasing rates of sexual violence, malnutrition and poverty, exacerbated especially by a lack of access to cultivable land. Using the SDG 16+ framework, these issues were unified through projects aimed at strengthening women's access to land to support their post-conflict community rebuilding efforts and complement the country's longstanding agrarian reforms which, while securing benefits for 2.3 million persons, only benefited 29 percent of women in 2012.

Through its WPS NAP (led by the Ministry of Interior), and specifically, an electoral law allocating 33 percent of all party nominations to women, Timor-Leste has increased female representation in the National Parliament to 38 percent, making it the highest in the Asia Pacific region.³² However, it is important to note that this numerical increase does not always translate into the inclusion of the most qualified representatives. In addition, related gender legislations that have been passed also face challenges in implementation. For example, the Law Against Domestic Violence (2010) has not been effectively implemented through the NAP on GBV, in a context where GBV affects 59 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 49.³³ GBV justice is impeded by limited capacity (in terms of insufficient resources, too few courts, inaccessibility and sluggishness) and societal norms that dictate that GBV cases only enter the formal system failing resolution at the family level. These gaps can be further exacerbated by weak police outreach capacity and language and legal literacy challenges. As per the NAP on GBV, the state is primarily responsible for preventing and addressing GBV.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND LEVERAGING COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

KOKOSA!, Timor-Leste

This multipronged 3-year program is aimed at creating sustained engagement with communities by training community mobilizers to conduct weekly outreach programs to facilitate positive shifts in gender dynamics at the local level. A partnership between Australian Aid and the Asia Foundation, KOKOSA! aims to improve the overall condition of women and girls in Timor-Leste by

providing services for female and child victims of violence and engaging in activities designed to change harmful social norms. Based on the Ugandan project SASA! (Start, Awareness, Support, Action), KOKOSA! provides funding, technical assistance and training to local partners, thereby engaging the community through a bottom-up approach.³⁴

Nabilan, Timor-Leste

Implemented by the Asia Foundation, Nabilan is an 8-year partnership between the governments of Timor-Leste and Australia to end violence against women and children and provide victims with high quality services, especially through 'evidenced-based programming and monetary and technical assistance, research, and training to key service partners.' Working with the Timorese Government and society, within its first phase (2014 and 2018), Nabilan supported the delivery of 31,857 services to female and child victims

of violence.³⁵ In 2015, Nabilan launched the Community-based Approaches initiative, working directly with communities to identify challenges and local solutions, training voluntary community mobilizers to be drivers of change at the village level. Nabilan also helped develop an app called Hamahon ('giving shelter' in Tetum), providing contact information for nearby support services, thereby improving access and empowering victims at the local level.

Partnership-driven Foreign and Domestic Policies, Canada

In working towards "building a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world," Canada employs a feminist international assistance policy of development that "supports the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls, and makes gender equality a priority, for the benefit of all people." Partnering with UN agencies and local communities to assess needs, build capacity and strengthen institutions and legal mechanisms, Canada works to create

networks of advocates, address gender inequalities and issues of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and empower women's CSOs to more fully address the needs of victims and survivors. Both in Canada and abroad, formal institutions work alongside CSOs to bring strong, factually-sound, litigable cases to court, and build trust in police forces and judicial institutions to improve reporting and the delivery of justice.

LINKING COMPLEMENTARY AGENDAS: YPS, WPS AND SDG 16

Ensuring gender, youth, as well as indigenous population inclusion is critical to long-term peacebuilding at various levels, including as related to urban resilience.

We Build Colombo Together (WBCT), Sri Lanka

We Build Colombo Together in Colombo, Sri Lanka, applies collective impact methodology to foster youth-inclusive peacebuilding. Launched in 2017, and through shared leadership and decision-making, WBCT brings together community, state, civil society, academia, religious entities and market actors to address urban youth issues related to rapid redevelopment and gentrification, including education and employment, social cohesion, housing, and safety and security. Popular misconceptions about the links between ‘bulging’ youth populations and increasing violence, and about youth migrants, refugees and displaced persons being a drain on state services, have supported hard security solutions that have proven

counterproductive. WBCT works to dismantle these misconceptions by disproving the links between youth involvement in violent conflicts and economic inequality and injustice, and promotes value-based peace education, while improving young women’s peacebuilding capacity through strategic gender programming. Collaborating with local NGOs and the municipal council, WBCT trained youth who were recently re-housed by the Urban Development Authority in digital literacy and mobile journalism. Using these skills, participants have created videos and social media campaigns that promote economic growth and tolerance in their communities.³⁶

Tamazight Women’s Movement, Libya

In Libya, the state had neglected to focus on building strong institutions and enriching human capacity in the 40 years leading up to the 2011 revolution. Within this context and founded by indigenous women, the Tamazight Women’s Movement (TWM) focuses on capacity-building and promoting women’s inclusion in decision-making in political and development processes. During brief periods of stability in 2015 and 2016, Libya held municipal elections during which the TWM mobilized women’s civic participation as voters and

candidates, increasing their engagement in local governance and in public spaces more generally. The movement succeeded in supporting two women candidates who were then elected into office. TWM works to increase solidarity among women and indigenous peoples at the community level. Currently, TWM is also co-leading a program focused on Youth and Women as Peace Bridge Builders with the aim of strengthening the resilience of CSOs working on both the women and youth, peace and security agendas.

Land, Conflict and Peace

In several countries, incomplete or failed land reforms, especially in contexts with legacies of colonial division, have laid the ground for protracted land conflicts. The lack of a comprehensive legal framework to address land conflicts and competing pressures on natural resources have also been shown to produce lasting conflicts. However, increasing land ownership and securing land rights have been shown to contribute positively to lasting conflict resolution, while increasing economic security. In addition, while women’s economic and social security is often tied to land, significant gender gaps in ownership remain globally. A study of 8 African countries found that less than 25 percent of landholders are female, while in Latin America, they account for 20 percent, and in the Middle East and North Africa they are less than 5 percent.³⁷ In some cases, such as in Bangladesh, sexual violence has been used as a tool to drive women out of their land, while 47 percent of women’s unmet justice needs relate to land disputes (with over 8 million land dispute cases per year across the genders).³⁸ In these cases, land governance laws are only effective when formulated and implemented with an eye towards gender inclusion, especially through locally engaged processes of decision-making and development.



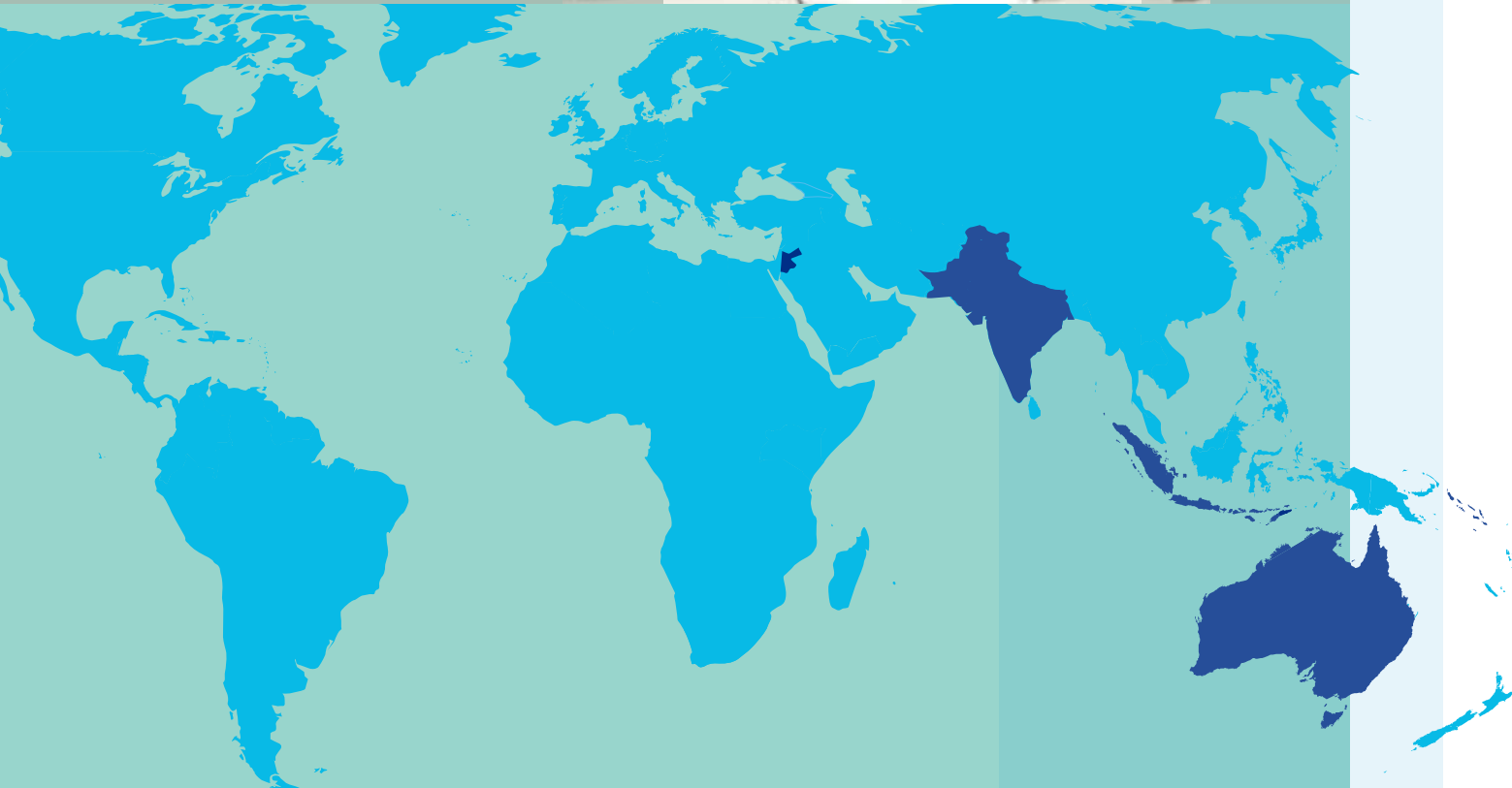
Field Visit to the Centro Nacional Chega!

Center for Peace Education, the Philippines

Women’s Agency in Promoting Peacekeeping Security or ‘We Peace’ was founded based on the findings of a 2016 study by the Center for Peace Education (CPE) in the Philippines, establishing that local actors must be centrally included in community peace building efforts to create durable peace. CPE partners with communities and women’s peace movements to advance a culture of peace through education, to work towards SDG goal

16.1 and to strengthen the implementation of WPS nationally. In so doing, CPE trains, monitors and supports women from 4 communities in 4 separate provinces to engage with their respective conflict issues. CPE aims to create women’s peacekeeping teams, build capacity towards gender-responsive peacemaking and engage with formal peacekeeping mechanisms.

Hamutuk Ita Resolve on Safe Online Spaces is a Facebook-based, youth empowerment program created by a network of Timorese youth to help navigate technology-related challenges faced by their peers. As the first generation of Internet and social media users, these innovative Timorese youth combat cyber bullying and violence through unique solutions to create a safer online community.



PEOPLE-CENTERED JUSTICE: MAKING THE SYSTEM(S) WORK FOR ALL

The Pathfinders' Task Force on Justice report, *Justice for All*, estimates that five billion people were deprived of justice in 2019.³⁹ At any one time, 1.5 billion people have justice problems. Providing peace-centered justice would cost USD 20 per person in low-income, USD 64 in middle-income, and USD 190 in high-income countries.⁴⁰

In addressing the growing justice gap, a few key themes emerged: recognizing the complementarity between formal and informal systems, while strengthening the capacity of the formal system; links between climate, justice and community-level legal empowerment; state accountability, national action plans and commissions; a better use of resources through mobile courts and legal aid clinics; and multi-stakeholder partnerships to leverage comparative advantages and drive results.

DIRECTLY RELEVANT SDG 16 TARGETS AND 2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES

- + 16.3 Rule of Law and Access to Justice
- + 16.4 Illicit Financial Flows, Stolen Assets and Organized Crime
- + 16.5 Corruption and Bribery
- + 16.9 Legal Identity

2030 AGENDA INTERLINKAGES HIGHLIGHTED BELOW — SDG 4 (EDUCATION), SDG 5 (GENDER EQUALITY), SDG 13 (CLIMATE ACTION)



SOLUTIONS

- + Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and Bridging Formal and Informal Justice Systems
- + Mobile Courts, Access to Justice Clinics and Legal Aid
- + Legal Education, Language and Community-level Empowerment
- + Criminal Justice Reform and Addressing Systemic Marginalization
- + Civil Society-led Accountability and Strengthening Partnerships to Bridge Justice Gaps

ALL HANDS-ON-DECK: EMPLOYING DIVERSE MECHANISMS TO CLOSE JUSTICE GAPS

In many countries in the Global North and the Global South, bridging the gap between the formal and informal justice systems is key to providing justice for all.^{41,42} In this context, and as highlighted during previous Annual Showcases, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms provide critical judicial recourse. Moreover, by bringing the rule of law to the grassroots, Mobile Courts have reduced the backlog of formal courts at national levels.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS AND BRIDGING FORMAL AND INFORMAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Traditional (or informal) justice systems, such as those in Liberia for example, are not only more accessible at the local level, but are also trusted resources providing affordable, speedy judicial recourse, while formal courts address larger, national and regional level cases. Yet, formal courts often lack necessary resources, such as judges and civil servants. In addition, corruption among overworked and underpaid civil servants inevitably leads to unjust trials, furthering the reliance on traditional mechanisms. In Myanmar, this divide between formal and informal justice systems is currently being addressed through the creation of a singular system that incorporates best practices from both.

While noting the importance of strengthening the capacity and efficacy of the formal system, ADR mechanisms have proven particularly effective in providing access to justice at the local level, especially in geographically remote areas and communities governed primarily by local laws and customs. For example, Nepal has formalized the use of ADR mechanisms through the ratification of a mediation law, and is currently training community mediators to address justice gaps at the local level, particularly in marginalized communities.

The customary (justice) realm is not confined, rigid or impenetrable. Changes can be made, as we have demonstrated through consultations conducted with customary leaders. And we (the Government of Timor-Leste) are open to such discussions. [...] The Constitution of Timor-Leste recognizes customary practices, but locates them outside the formal state... Hence, there has to be an attempt to address the gap between the two (formal/state and customary judicial systems).

— H.E. Fidelis Magalhaes, Minister of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste

ADR and Traditional Justice Mechanisms, the Solomon Islands

Arbitration is common practice in the Solomon Islands, particularly in rural areas and at the village-level given the geographic disposition of the nation, comprised of over 900 islands. The country's constitution and government recognize the importance of customary law and local arbitration practices in the informal justice system and are currently working towards integrating the two. ADR mechanisms have been particularly successful in addressing minor cases that can otherwise overwhelm the limited capacity of the formal justice system, with only 7 judges serving in the nation's only High Court at present. ADR has also proven useful in resolving deadlocked cases in the high court, thus complementing the justice delivery efforts of the formal system.

As shared in a g7+ meeting on the sidelines of the 2019 Annual Showcase, the Traditional Governance Bill,

once passed, will grant authority to traditional leaders (chiefs) and local court adjudicators to provide judicial recourse for minor civil and criminal matters at the village level, elevating informal justice.⁴³ The Ministry of Justice of the Solomon Islands has also created a public website with information about all court cases, and is promoting and encouraging the use of ADR mechanisms through radio programs.

As a follow up to a separate g7+ Ministerial-Level Meeting in June 2019 on *Advancing Access to Justice for All in Conflict-Affected Countries*, after which a Declaration and Joint Action Plan were adopted, the meeting in Dili also highlighted the need for increased ownership and collaboration between g7+ partner countries and the advantages of using customary justice mechanisms given its proximity to local populations.

16+ FORUM ANNUAL SHOWCASE
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE
NOVEMBER 11 – 14, 2019

Implementing SDG 16+ at the National,
Regional and Local Levels: Implementation
of SDG 16+

#16PlusDili



From left to right: Ms. Harshani Dharmadasa, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; H.E. Manuel Cárceres da Costa, Minister of Justice of Timor-Leste; Ms. Stacey Cram, Namati; Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel, UNDP Resident Representative of Timor-Leste; and Mr. Alan Wu, Open Government Partnership

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED SOLUTIONS TO ENSURING JUSTICE FOR ALL

Through community trainings and initiatives, CSO networks have advanced community-oriented solutions to realize justice for all. The role of non-state actors in providing access to justice, and supporting the formal system, cannot be understated. Whether through capacity building of the informal system in remote areas or complementing the work of the Ministries of Justice, Education and other relevant governmental bodies through advocacy campaigns, bridging the justice gap calls for coordination and coherence both within and across sectors through a whole of society approach.

LEGAL EDUCATION, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNITY-LEVEL EMPOWERMENT

Strengthening the Rule of Law Programme, UNDP, Pakistan

To address gender gaps in access to justice, civil society has been working together with the UN to create a people-centered solution focused on women's inclusion. One of the results of these efforts is UNDP's Strengthening the Rule of Law Programme (SRLP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, where in partnership with informal justice systems, the SRLP has provided legal aid to 22,087 persons (47 percent were women) since its founding in 2012. The program also provides

scholarships to young women to attend law school and has created a cohort of female lawyers who have conducted legal aid clinics providing legal assistance to vulnerable women. The SRLP has also trained 437 community-based paralegals (45 percent of whom are women) and established two Community-Based Paralegal Networks in KP, while its legal rights media campaigns have reached over 1.5 million people as of 2020.⁴⁸

Namati, India

Namati's Global Legal Empowerment Network is composed of over 7000 individuals and 2000 organizations working on improving access to justice. The Network aims to empower communities through community paralegals and trainings focused on understanding and translating laws and legal documents into local languages in a way that reflects the reality on the ground.

Despite environmental regulations, a cement factory located 100 meters from a small village in Gujarat, India, had been operating without a filtration system at night to cut costs. The dust created by the cement rendered crops inedible and water undrinkable. Letters sent from the local population failed to mitigate

pollution. In 2013, community paralegals shared critical legal information with locals about the cement factory's lack of compliance with operational guidelines in the Consent to Operate agreement with the Indian Government. By translating the document into Gujarati (the local language), the paralegals facilitated greater understanding of the situation and empowered local ownership and participation in further legal action. Subsequently, an application was sent to the pollution control board, which conducted an inspection of the factory and mandated the continuous use of the air filtration system, which has since markedly reduced pollution.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC MARGINALIZATION

Strengthening Inclusion through Criminal Justice Reforms, Australia

Lack of political inclusion of indigenous peoples remains a significant issue within Australia. Currently, indigenous people make up 3 percent of Australia's population, but

are over-represented in the criminal justice system at 27 percent and are more likely to be victims of violence. The Council of Australian Governments is currently

38 MOBILE COURTS, ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLINICS AND LEGAL AID

Mobile Courts and Access to Justice Clinics, Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, land disputes, language barriers, insufficient resources, and collaboration between formal and informal justice institutions have been identified as key challenges in strengthening access to justice. To address existing gaps, Timor-Leste established a mobile court system in collaboration with UNDP in 2015. In three years, almost 3,000 cases were assigned to the mobile courts, thereby reducing the backlog of the formal courts countrywide. However, mobile courts require high levels of coordination amongst justice actors and are also dependent on extra-governmental funding, a lack of which has decreased the number of cases the courts have been able to take on since 2018.

Legal Aid, Indonesia and Jordan

Indonesia too has recently made a concerted effort to provide legal aid in criminal, civil and administrative cases to those who cannot afford a lawyer through the passing of the 2011 Legal Aid Act.⁴⁴ The National Law Development Agency runs the legal aid system by 'accrediting legal aid providers, providing funding and monitoring the delivery of legal aid'. This law also formalizes relationships with CSOs that have provided legal aid services and advocated to increase the state's responsibility in improving access to justice.

While Jordan is home to more than 650,000 Syrian refugees, over 78 percent of them live below the poverty line and have 'legal problems associated with basic needs such as shelter, income, ID documents, and

The Government also established Access to Justice Clinics in 2016 that provide free legal assistance prior to taking cases to court. Through this initiative, UNDP helped the Ministry of Justice test the effectiveness of ADR mechanisms, particularly for land disputes, and provided support to create a new paralegal program. Currently operating in the municipality of Bacau, this program will be rolled out to the rest of the country in the coming years.

education'.⁴⁵ In partnership with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP provides legal assistance to Syrian refugees in host communities throughout Jordan, especially through legal advice and counseling services, and legal rights education for particularly vulnerable groups such as women and girls, and refugees.⁴⁶ In addition, working with the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR launched a 'regularization campaign' in March 2018 to allow Syrian refugees to legalize their stay in urban areas. Furthermore, a consortium of six INGOs including the Danish Relief Council, funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, provided legal assistance to around 20,000 Syrian families in 2018.⁴⁷



Opening Plenary Session and Formal Reception

working to improve the coordination of government services through in-prison trainings, supporting the reintegration of ex-prisoners by providing employment opportunities, and improving the provision of government health, education and income support services outside prison. Also, an intensive case management

system helps offenders return to their communities and families in a safe manner, while supporting rehabilitation efforts by addressing causal factors such as lack of education, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment and weak communal ties.

CIVIL SOCIETY-LED ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS TO BRIDGE THE JUSTICE GAP

Partnerships across sectors and stakeholders are key in implementing SDG 16+ and providing access to justice for all. Civil society-led accountability further improves

justice delivery, including through comprehensive planning and monitoring programs.

Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP), Timor-Leste

The JSMP is the only CSO that monitors the daily work of the Timor-Leste Parliament, through its Parliamentary Watch Program to ensure transparency, accountability and open consultations during legislative processes. The JSMP also monitors all district courts, and the performance of court actors to ensure that their decisions are in compliance with international standards, especially when dealing with sensitive cases involving children, LGBTQI+ persons and persons with disabilities.

Likewise, the Training and Advocacy Unit creates avenues for communities and students to participate in the legislative process through trainings, workshops and discussions. It also offers such legal trainings to LGBTQI+ groups, people with disabilities and female high school students, with the added goal of incentivizing female students to pursue legal studies. The JSMP also works with the media through a special arrangement with two prominent newspapers to disseminate legal information obtained from its monitoring activities and share summaries of court cases with the broader public.

Saferworld in Somaliland and the strategic policy potential of SDG 16+

Through a model of change based on consultation, collaboration and 'localization', Saferworld reshapes development policy by incorporating local input on SDG 16+, towards achieving peace, justice and inclusion. Shifting focus to SDG 16+ allows goal- and target-setting to be more actionable and realistic, while increasing the efficacy of development programs. In Somaliland, three emergent areas of focus — eradicating female genital mutilation, providing access to justice for all and increasing women's political participation through gender quotas — have been linked using the SDG16+ framework.⁴⁹

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

State accountability to closing justice gaps suffers from a disconnect between policy and practice. In an attempt to bridge the disconnect, the OGP advises member states to develop two-year National Action Plans (NAPs) with concrete commitments across a broad range of issues, which the countries must then report on. These NAPs address access gaps from community-level legal assistance to strengthening broader justice processes and outcomes.

governance in 79 countries. Justice is a central part of these action plans with Latin American countries leading the way on justice commitments, alongside Georgia, Albania, Moldova and Indonesia. Having recently presented its 4th Action Plan, Argentina continues to spearhead this movement, with 4 of its current 16 commitments directly related to justice. While the overall number of justice commitments remains low, there is a growing global trend to link justice with open governance thanks to widespread advocacy efforts.

As a multilateral justice initiative, OGP brings together governments and communities to advance reforms and enable transparent, accountable and participatory



ENLARGING THE DATA POOL AND STRENGTHENING VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

In July 2019, the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies published *Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion*. This report provides a global overview of SDG 16+ implementation and action, highlighting progress across 25 countries from various multi-stakeholder perspectives. The report highlighted trends on peace, justice and inclusion, as well as three key findings: a) political and financial investments are needed to accelerate progress on SDG 16+; b) SDG 16+ implementation requires a ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approach; and c) SDG 16+ is instrumental in protecting fundamental freedoms and ensuring that no one is left behind.⁵⁰

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) provides an opportunity for countries to measure and report on such trends, examining challenges and successes in implementation. While there has been a marked increase in the overall amount of data shared⁵¹ over the

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) every July, challenges remain, ranging from data availability and quality, to questions of accuracy and inclusion. Particularly in terms of civil society inclusion, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process offers a useful comparison.

STRENGTHENING INCLUSION IN THE VNR PROCESS (BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER)

The need to integrate CSOs into official VNR and post-VNR processes is apparent. Civil society often acts not only as a critical bridge between governments and their citizens, but also as a link between national-level policies and international frameworks. However, while some countries actively involve civil society in the drafting of their VNRs, most do not. To this end, the May 2019 Rome Civil Society Declaration, a product of the Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network as well as various other CSOs called for civil society to serve as “key actors in official policymaking,

planning, implementation, budgeting and reporting processes... including for the VNR”.⁵²

Shadow or spotlight reports produced by civil society, academia, human rights institutions and others help to ensure that the official reports presented by governments are accurate and reflect actual progress. While no formal mechanisms to submit shadow reports currently exist, a number of CSOs are working to facilitate the collection and dissemination of these reports at the HLPF and through an online submission platform.^{53,54}

The VNR Process in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste presented its first VNR at the 2019 HLPF, anchored in SDG 16 and in line with its National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030). From the outset, the Government sought to ensure systemic inclusion of multiple stakeholders to promote greater data accuracy and to reflect the daily realities of the Timorese population, particularly those living in remote areas without sufficient access to state institutions. In doing so, the Government established several mechanisms such as the CSO Advisory Group, the SDG Working Group and an extensive community consultation process. The Advisory Group, comprised of the National NGO Platform (Fongtil), the National Youth Council, and the Network of Women's Organizations, was created to guide the VNR Secretariat and provide recommendations on further inclusion of marginalized groups. While put in place for the VNR, certain mechanisms have remained fully or partially in place. It is important to note, however, that despite best intentions and the inclusive nature of the consultations, the final VNR report did not fully reflect civil society input, due in part to a lack of capacity on the part of many CSOs to engage, as well as a lack of awareness about the SDGs. Going forward, civil society has proposed the inclusion of shadow reports, as well as an increase in awareness-raising efforts, investment in capacity-building, and a formalization of their role in future VNRs.

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UPRs, VNRs and Civil Society Engagement

The Human Rights and SDGs communities have been increasingly working together to leverage their comparative advantage, with human rights defenders and activists in certain countries opting to frame discussions around human rights violations through the SDGs, to create safe spaces to engage directly with the government. Within this context, human rights could be understood as principles, and SDGs as the plan, with synergies at global, national and local levels. However, the two frameworks differ notably vis-à-vis reporting and implementation mechanisms. Firstly, the UPRs are an established multi-stakeholder process where the participation of non-state actors is not only anticipated

but also demanded, whereas responsibility of the VNRs lies with the national government. Secondly, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), which have been established in a large majority of countries globally, are central to the implementation of the human rights framework at the national and local levels. While under threat in some contexts, others are in the process of establishing their own. In 2019, Switzerland approved a proposal to establish its own NHRI, thereby strengthening its constitutionally enshrined commitment to human rights. In contrast, very few countries have a national institution for which the sole mandate is the advancement and implementation of the SDGs at the national level.





ADDRESSING DATA GAPS

While National Statistics Offices (NSOs), such as the Philippines Statistics Authority, are primarily tasked with data collection in most countries, strengthening

capacities across public and civil society sectors to collect relevant data using appropriate tools and analytical methods is critical to closing existing data gaps.

African Development Interchange Network (ADIN) and the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

46 Within this context, formal mechanisms to ensure the systemic engagement of stakeholders, including the creation of safe spaces for dialogue to elicit feedback from CSOs, are of critical importance. Through consultations and workshops with CSOs, ADIN and CSPPS surveyed understanding of the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and the VNR process, aiming to build their capacity to participate and make concrete contributions to final VNR reports.

Through this study, ADIN and CSPPS found that many African countries lacked legal frameworks to support VNR processes, while others with such frameworks

often excluded CSOs from participating. The study recommends: a) capacity building to ensure CSO inclusion in VNR processes; b) increasing coordination among VNR actors to generate a diversity of data inputs and reporting outcomes; and c) shifting away from tokenism and fostering meaningful engagement of CSOs in VNR processes to achieve SDG 16+ targets. Critically, ADIN is also working to systematize a feedback loop, through which government officials are required to report back to the larger population before presenting the VNR at HLPF.

Global Data Handbook

The SDG16 Data Initiative represents a consortium of sixteen organizations working to develop an official indicator framework, drawing on both official and non-official data sources, through which progress on SDG 16 can be more accurately monitored. While 23 global indicators have been identified for the twelve SDG 16 targets, the SDG16 Data Initiative has developed additional, complementary indicators to provide a better understanding of the situation on the ground. In 2019, the Initiative published its third annual Global Report, which analyzes progress made on SDG 16 targets and identifies gaps in implementation and monitoring, providing recommendations to accelerate action where possible. The 2019 Report highlights two major challenges in SDG 16 data collection and reporting: a) methodological issues, as well as limited resources and capacity of NSOs have made it extremely difficult to close data gaps; and, b) conceptual gaps within the 23 official SDG 16 indicators hinder accurate measurement. Moving forward, it is critical to recognize and elevate the role of unofficial data providers amongst governments and the UN.

Our government is considering the establishment of an integrated mechanism ... the aim is to enhance the involvement of civil society in... decision-making processes regarding the commitment to ensure the viability of Agenda 2030.

— H.E. Hermenegildo Pereira, Minister of State of the Presidency
of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste

National Statistics Office, Cabo Verde

In Cabo Verde, the NSO compiles data from different ministries on 95 SDG indicators across the 17 Goals, including ten on SDG 16. However, institutional data collection capacities need to be strengthened to acquire more legible and usable administrative data. The NSOs currently use data from the *Strategy for Amortization Statistics in Africa* as a proxy to measure corresponding SDGs. Another significant challenge facing Cabo Verde is the trustworthiness and abuse of data sources. While it is illegal to collect data about religious groups,

religious identity, or sexual identity in some cases, in others, repressive groups are likely to abuse data to target specific vulnerable populations, while CSOs too are vulnerable to issues of privacy and security. To address this issue, the Government is partnering with local NGOs that work closely with communities to collect available data on indicators such as HIV rates and sexual violence, thus supplementing administrative data (collected by local government), which tends to be particularly weak on such sensitive topics.

Praia City Group

The Praia City Group was charged with developing the *Handbook on Governance Statistics* for NSOs around the world in a step towards closing existing data gaps. Launched in 2020, the handbook outlines eight dimensions of governance and aims to address the conceptualization, measurement, methodology and simulation of governance statistics, while outlining existing standards and emerging group practices to provide guidance on data collection for SDG 16+ indicators. While a number of countries have set ambitious targets on SDG 16 implementation, many actually lack the technical guidance to measure

progress in a systematic and structured manner, which includes reporting on policies and projects related to access to justice, corruption and violence

The Praia City Group's mandate is up in 2020, however it has requested a 5-year extension in order to supplement the findings and provide additional guidelines to further the gathering of governance statistics at all levels.

CONCLUSION: TAKE-AWAYS AND GOING FORWARD



To achieve SDG 16 by 2030, many sectors, initiatives and institutions must work hand in hand. This Annual Showcase shows that the lists of initiatives and priorities that many countries and organizations are working on are impressive. [...] I firmly believe that through hard and systematic work, sharing success stories as well as mistakes, building trust and good will, strong progress will be made.

— H.E. Vegard Kaale, Ambassador of Norway to Indonesia

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Institutionalizing and ensuring the continued relevance and success of SDG 16+ will require increased delivery at national and sub-national levels, as well as more coherent advocacy from local to international levels. Retrofitting existing programs under the SDG 16+ umbrella could help to do this, but only if such programs are, in fact, SDG 16+ specific in policy, programming and objectives. With three years until the next SDG Summit (2023) and the 'Decade of Action' to commence in 2020, this 2019 Annual Showcase offered a few key take-aways:

- Embrace SDG 16+ as a useful framework for addressing politically sensitive issues, from protecting human rights and human rights defenders to the inclusion of marginalized populations and addressing impunity.
- Localization is critical to the success of SDG 16+. Therefore, invest in it and support local institutions, structures and actors in delivery and in linking national-level policy and programming to local-level impact.
- Maximize the utility of complementary frameworks in order to strengthen and streamline implementation and operationalization of SDG 16+ policy and programming at regional, national and local levels.
- Utilize high-level events, such as the HLPF, UN General Assembly among others, to better galvanize, publicize and amplify meaningful, high-level political will and commitment, increasing both visibility and accountability.
- Deepen and broaden the conversation around data. Increase multi-stakeholder inclusion in data collection, management and analysis to strengthen VNR processes and the measurement of progress, including through feedback loops.
- Increase focus on a whole-of-society approach. This also includes more thoughtfully and broadly engaging CSOs and the private sector, multi-nationals and small to medium-size enterprises, through education and awareness-raising campaigns.

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Costa Rica adopted the SDG 16+ framework in 2019 as a way to unify its international and national efforts at creating sustained peace. On the international front, Costa Rica has launched a University of World Peace to create a 'culture of peace.' On the national front, the country abolished its army in 1948, choosing instead to employ multilateralism and international law to resolve conflicts with other countries, and civic dialogue to foster greater inclusion in decision-making and build consensus with its citizenry. Costa Rica has since focused its sustainable peace strategy on developing human and ecological resources.



From left to right: Ms. Margaret Williams, World Federation of United Nations Associations; and Mr. John Romano, the TAP Network

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Our government welcomes the outcome of the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase, which has contributed to the strengthening of our comprehensive, firm and beneficial global relationship, to maximize the potential for joint action between our nations and institutions.

— H.E. Hermenegildo Pereira, Minister of State of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste

APPENDIX

SDG 16 TARGETS, INDICATORS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

- Indicator 16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- Indicator 16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- Indicator 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of people that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

- Indicator 16.2.1: Percentage of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
- Indicator 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
- Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

- Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
- Indicator 16.3.2: Unsensitized detainees as proportion of overall prison population

16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

- Indicator 16.4.1: Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
- Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized and small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments

16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- Indicator 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
- Indicator 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. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

- Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
- Indicator 16.6.2: Percentage of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

- Indicator 16.7.1: Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
- Indicator 16.7.2: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

16.8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

- Indicator 16.8.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

- Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

- Indicator 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
- Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

16.a. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

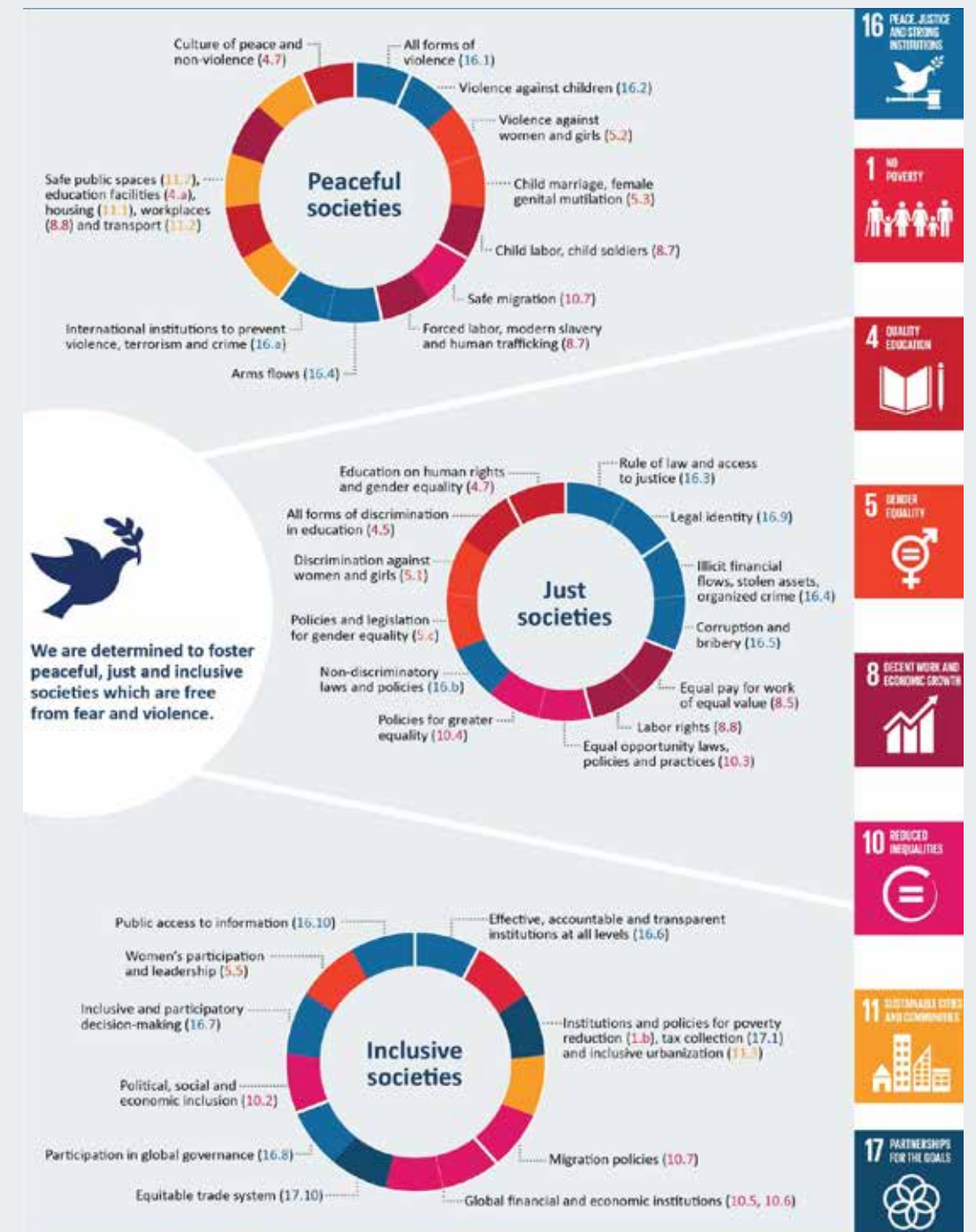
- Indicator 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

16.b. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

- Indicator 16.b.1: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

APPENDIX

SDG 16+ TARGETS, PATHFINDERS FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES



APPENDIX

SDG 16+ PARTNER INITIATIVES (UNHQ-BASED)

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a coordinating platform for UN Member States, private sector, civil society and international entities to work together to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Co-facilitated by UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC and UNHCR, and liaising with partners across the UN system, the Global Alliance brings UN Member States the assistance they need to report meaningfully on progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies — and its links to the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PATHFINDERS FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a group of UN Member States, international organizations, global partnerships, and other partners. The group is convened by the governments of Brazil, Switzerland and Sierra Leone, and supported by the Center on International Cooperation.

THE TAP NETWORK: TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

Working with the recognition that open, inclusive, accountable and effective governance and peaceful societies are both outcomes and enablers of sustainable and equitable development, the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network is a network of CSOs working to centralize efforts towards these outcomes within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The TAP network also promotes and supports the recognition and mobilization of civil society in creating, implementing and ensuring accountability sustainable development policies.

APPENDIX

PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

Accuity, United Kingdom	Civil Society Education Partnership, Timor-Leste	Human Rights Commission of the Philippines
ADTL, Timor-Leste	Civil Society Forum for Peace, Myanmar	Independent Commission Against Corruption Fiji
Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Afghanistan	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), the Netherlands	Institut Français, Timor-Leste
Africa Development Interchange Network, Cameroon	CODIVA, Timor-Leste	International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group, Timor-Leste
ALFELA, Timor-Leste	Colegio de Santo Inacio de Loiola, Timor-Leste	International IDEA
Alola Foundation, Timor-Leste	Colegio Paulo IV, Timor-Leste	International Legal Assistance Consortium, Sweden
AMKV, Timor-Leste	Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Lanka	Irmaos Unidos, Timor-Leste
Anti-Corruption Commission, Timor-Leste	ConocoPhillips, Timor-Leste	Jacinto Group, Timor-Leste
APCS, Timor-Leste	Cristal Senior High School, Timor-Leste	Japan International Cooperation Agency
Arang Huhung Unp Lda, Timor-Leste	Delegation of the European Union to Timor-Leste	Jaymall Online, Timor-Leste
Aruiris Group, Timor-Leste	Delta Basarema Unip Lda., Timor-Leste	JL Vila City8, Timor-Leste
ASEAN Study Center, Cambodia	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia	Jonize Construction, Timor-Leste
Asia Development Alliance, India	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Germany and Timor-Leste	Judicial System Monitoring Program, Timor-Leste
Asia Development Bank, the Philippines and Timor-Leste	DHL Express, Timor-Leste	Juridico Social Consultaria (JU,S), Timor-Leste
Asia Foundation, Timor-Leste	Dili Development Company, Timor-Leste	Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN), Timor-Leste
Asia Justice and Rights, Indonesia and Timor-Leste	Divita Group, Timor-Leste	Korea International Cooperation Agency, Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste
Asia-Pacific Forum, Timor-Leste	East Timor Development Agency (ETDA), Timor-Leste	La'o Hamutuk, Timor-Leste
Associated Press, Timor-Leste	Espaces Verts du Sahel, Chad	LexisNexis, United States
Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh	Esperansa Timor-Oan, Timor-Leste	Lita Store, Timor-Leste
Association of Youth Organizations, Nepal	Executive Office of Timor-Leste	L TTL, Timor-Leste
Assosiasun Chega Ba Ita (ACbit), Timor-Leste	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland	Lusa, Portugal
Ba Futuru, Timor-Leste	FEEO, Timor-Leste	Mahein Foundation, Timor-Leste
Belun, Timor-Leste	FOKUPERS, Timor-Leste	Mahoka, Timor-Leste
Biamali Unip Lda., Timor-Leste	Fongtil, Timor-Leste	Many Hands One Nation (MAHON), Timor-Leste
Bobolait Unipessoal Lda, Timor-Leste	FORSAE, Timor-Leste	Marabia Group, Timor-Leste
Bolloré Logistics, Timor-Leste	Fortuna Star, Timor-Leste	Merkurius Film, Timor-Leste
Cambota Construction, Timor-Leste	Forum Advocacy, Timor-Leste	Ministry of Education, Timor-Leste
Canxigo Training Center, Timor-Leste	Forum Tau Matan, Timor-Leste	Ministry of Finance Timor-Leste
Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid), the Netherlands	g7+ Secretariat	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Afghanistan
Center for Education Promotion and Empowerment of Women, Vietnam	Global Affairs Canada	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Timor-Leste
Center for Peace Education, Philippines	Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand
Center of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD), Timor-Leste	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the Philippines and Sri Lanka	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Brunei Darussalam
Center on International Cooperation, United States	Governance for Development Programme, Timor-Leste	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Indonesia
Centro Jeneru, Timor-Leste	Green Village, Timor-Leste	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway
Centro Nacional Chega!, Timor-Leste	Heineken, Timor-Leste	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peru
Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Timor-Leste		Ministry of Foreign Affairs Portugal
		Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sweden

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PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Czech Republic	Permanent Mission of the Marshall Islands to the UN	Timor Food, Timor-Leste
Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration Samoa	Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the UN	UN Development Coordination Office Asia-Pacific
Ministry of Justice Japan	Permanent Mission of Togo to the UN	UN Global Compact Indonesia
Ministry of Justice the Solomon Islands	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement	UN Women Timor-Leste
Ministry of Justice Timor-Leste	Philippines Statistics Authority	UNAME Timor-Leste
Ministry of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs Timor-Leste	Plan International	UNDP HQ
MOFFE, Timor-Leste	Ponta Leste Group Lda., Timor-Leste	UNDP Pakistan
Namati, United States	PPM Manajem Business School, Indonesia	UNDP Timor-Leste
National Petroleum and Mineral Authority Timor-Leste	Pradet, Timor-Leste	UNESCO Timor-Leste
National University of Timor-Leste	Praia City Group, Cabo Verde	UNICEF HQ
National Youth Council of Timor-Leste	Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Timor-Leste	United Company, Timor-Leste
Nepal SDGs Forum	Public Financial Management and Oversight, Timor-Leste	University of South Carolina Rule of Law Collaborative, United States
New Zealand Aid Programme, Timor-Leste	Public Legal Aid Network, Myanmar	UNOHCHR Asia-Pacific
NGO Federation of Nepal	Public Service Commission, Timor-Leste	Warmadewa University, Indonesia
Ni'mia Construction Lda, Timor-Leste	Rede Feto, Timor-Leste	WithOneSeed, Timor-Leste
Office of the Prime Minister Timor-Leste	RHTO, Timor-Leste	World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA), United States
Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Timor-Leste	Rosario Lda., Timor-Leste	World Health Organization, Timor-Leste
Ombudsperson for Human Rights and Justice Timor-Leste	Ruta Pacifica de la Mujeres, Colombia	Youth for Peace, Timor-Leste
Open Government Partnership, Singapore	Saferworld, United Kingdom	Youth Parliament of Timor-Leste
Open Society Foundation, United Kingdom	SDG 16 Data Initiative	
OXFAM International	Search for Common Ground, Sri Lanka	
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Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN	Suku National Development Program, Timor-Leste	
Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN	Tamazight Women's Movement, Libya	
Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN	TAP Network: Transparency, Accountability and Participation for the 2030 Agenda, United States	
Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN	The Education and Training Institute, United States	
Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the UN		

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