

# TIMOR-LESTE ANNUAL SHOWCASE CONCEPT NOTE



Sixteen  
Plus Forum

11 - 14 November 2019

Díli

Timor-Leste



Sixteen  
Plus Forum



World Federation of United Nations Associations



## What Is SDG 16+?

From access to justice and the rule of law, to inclusion and participatory decision-making, violence reduction and the promotion of peace, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 resonates across societies universally and the 2030 Agenda as an indivisible whole. SDG 16+, which includes Sustainable Development Goal 16, its related 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies and links to other UN agendas, such as Sustaining Peace, offers a catalytic opportunity to fully realize the 2030 Agenda, as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole, and deliver on the promise of societies which are free from fear and violence. It embodies a transformative and catalytic shift – that peace and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing and dependent.

SDG 16 (among other SDGs) will not only be under review at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in

July under the theme of Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality, but also at the SDG Summit in September during which the entire 2030 Agenda will undergo its first quadrennial review. On the heels of the 2019 HLPF and the SDG Summit, this 3rd Annual Showcase offers an opportunity to channel and direct attention generated at UNHQ to impact on the ground.

## What Is the 16+ Forum?

Launched in April 2016, the 16+ Forum is a multi-stakeholder platform and partnership of 12 member states, the g7+ and WFUNA, designed to share and amplify best practices in SDG 16+ implementation at regional, national and local levels and across a wide community of stakeholders – governments, civil society, the UN, regional and international organizations, academia and the private sector.

The 16+ Forum's partner member states include



Australia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste and Tunisia, as well as the G7+. In short, the 16+ Forum provides a platform to demonstrate SDG 16+ in policy and practice, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and universally across countries and contexts. Through gatherings, events and publications, it facilitates dialogue, learning and exchange among stakeholders. Its flagship global gathering, the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase, brings together 170+ policy makers, practitioners and thought leaders from over 30 countries focused on the policy and practice of advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

## What Is the 16+ Forum Annual Showcase?

In September 2016, the 16+ Forum announced the Annual Showcase, a collective undertaking to showcase SDG 16+ in action- what implementation looks like, how to go about it, and lessons learned to take forward. Held on a yearly basis, the Annual Showcase takes place in a 16+ Forum member country.

With the first Annual Showcase in Tbilisi, Georgia, the second in Freetown, Sierra Leone and now the third in Dili, Timor-Leste, each opens with a focus on the host country and a flagship theme, while then broadening the lens to include a variety of country and regional contexts.

Announced in 2016, the inaugural Annual Showcase was held in the fall of 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia, bringing together representatives of governments, civil society, the UN, academia and the private sector. The second 16+ Forum Annual Showcase was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 7-10 October 2018.

Bringing additional regional diversity to the Annual

Showcase with Timor-Leste as host, this third SDG 16+ global gathering will also highlight practical synergies with other major international frameworks, including



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the New Deal's Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals, further adding to the push for SDG 16+ at home and abroad. (Previously, in Georgia, links were made between SDG 16+ and the Open Government Partnership, of which Georgia was then Chair. In Sierra Leone, links were made between SDG 16+ and the New Deal, of which Sierra Leone is Chair).

With wide-ranging participation of governments, local and international civil society organizations, members of the UN system, regional and international organizations, the private sector and academia, the Annual Showcase provides a yearly opportunity to highlight steps taken at regional, national and local levels towards SDG 16+ implementation, inclusive of challenges, successes and solutions. From field visits to panel discussions, this four-day, innovative and interactive conference brings together a diverse group of stakeholders and champions. Holding the Showcase at the country-level, whether in [Georgia](#), [Sierra Leone](#) or Timor-Leste, orients participants towards implementation, sustainable impact and continued efforts to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies well into 2030 and beyond.

## Why Timor-Leste?

### 2019 TIMOR-LESTE ANNUAL SHOWCASE

2019 marks a historic year for Timor-Leste. Twenty years since voting for independence from Indonesia under a UN-administered popular consultation and 17 since independence was restored, Timor-Leste has its own unique and compelling narrative of resistance, independence, reconciliation and peace, inclusive of successes, as well as remaining challenges and opportunities. Still one of the youngest countries in the world, and with ambitions to become a middle-income country by 2030, advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies is a priority at the national and international level. As a global champion of SDG 16 and one of the initial advocates for SDG 16 as a standalone goal, Timor-Leste is a timely host for this 3rd Annual Showcase.

In keeping with Timor-Leste's Voluntary National Review (VNR), to be presented at this year's HLPF and with SDG 16 at its foundation, the theme of reconciliation and inclusion as drivers of peace and prosperity, at home and abroad, will feature at the opening of this Showcase. Participatory decision making and multi-stakeholder partnerships provided the basis for consultations and processes around the

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VNR, as well as the country's adoption of its Strategic Development Plan and its alignment with the SDGs. Following colonial rule and then military occupation, Timor-Leste has made substantial progress as a new nation since the restoration of independence in 2002, focused on prevention, statebuilding and accelerating progress on sustainable development.

Social transfers for veterans, the elderly, as well as female headed households and poor families, were established to support the most marginalized, foster cohesion and reintegration, and provide a "peace dividend" to resistance fighters and their families.

An emphasis on security sector reform following the 2006 crisis led to innovative approaches to prevent violence and promote peace, from community policing to the establishment of a national directorate for community conflict prevention. Since the restoration of independence, Timor-Leste has had four democratic and peaceful elections. Legislative reform and the creation of various institutions, from independent human rights and electoral institutions to an anti-corruption commission, highlight progress made in state building and institution building. Gains have also been made in terms of female representation in national bodies, such as parliament where women

have 40% representation and elected bodies at the local level where there are 3 reservation seats for women in the village councils. Despite such notable gains, gender equality remains a significant issue.

As Timor-Leste continues to move forward in its efforts to consolidate peace, deliver justice and support inclusion, further addressing women's political and economic empowerment and gender-based violence, as well as the inclusion of youth and decent work remain priorities. As the seventh youngest country in the world and with 67.5 percent of its population under 30, young people present an undeniable opportunity to advance SDG 16+ and drive peace and prosperity. Focusing on young people's political and economic inclusion will be critical to Timor-Leste's present and future. Balancing adequate and effective social protection, including social transfers, with increased access to education, healthcare and other services has led to questions around policy, public spending and the measures needed to address inequalities.

Going forward, addressing challenges and opportunities around peace, access to justice and inclusive, public service delivery, as well as economic diversification and the role of the private sector, add to the country's interest in learning from others who have undergone similar transitions. Seventeen years since independence, Timor-Leste has proven itself a leader on SDG 16+, with much to share on reconciling with the past while building the future, and on what it takes to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies. With eleven years left to realize the 2030 Agenda, and timed to take place following the SDG Summit under the auspices of the General Assembly in September, this Showcase provides an important opportunity to further energize SDG 16+ implementation, at home and abroad, in order to reach the ultimate aspiration

of 'leaving no one behind'.

## Outcomes

The Annual Showcase aims to highlight the how, what, when and who of SDG 16+ implementation, thereby encouraging its implementation across a greater number of contexts while bringing best, multi-stakeholder practices to the fore. Specifically, the Timor-Leste Showcase will:

- Hold a capacity-building workshop for civil society focused on SDG 16+ advocacy, implementation and reporting, drawing out interlinkages not only across the 2030 Agenda, but also to other frameworks and agendas, including the New Deal.
- Drive home the importance of impact through government and non-government field visits.
- Highlight SDG 16+ implementation strategies, policies, programming and partnerships, including, but not limited to National Development Agendas and Strategic Plans.



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- Build upon momentum generated at the High-level Political Forum, the Voluntary National Reviews and

the SDG Summit for stronger implementation at national and local levels.

- Demonstrate interlinkages in policy, practice and stakeholders across the SDGs and related UN frameworks, such as Sustaining Peace.
- Link the global conversation with national, sub-national and increasingly regional partnerships and implementation.



PHOTO CREDIT: BLOG

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- Produce an Outcome Document, to be submitted as official input to HLPF 2020, to complement follow-up and review efforts.
- Continue to build a movement for SDG 16+ at the local, national and regional level, beyond 2019 and for the duration of the 2030 Agenda.

## Conference Themes

Each year, the Annual Showcase will feature one flagship theme, with two subsequent themes – to ensure that the full breadth of Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is featured during the discussions.

Within each theme, interlinkages across SDG 16+ issues, themselves, will be drawn out, as well as the universality of SDG 16, its related targets for peaceful,

just and inclusive societies across the 2030 Agenda, and its links to Sustaining Peace.

In addition to the themes noted directly below, independent case studies, research and frameworks will be presented, again focusing on practical steps and inclusive processes needed to reach meaningful and sustainable implementation.

Opening with a focus on Timor-Leste, the flagship theme will be: Reconciliation, Strong Institutions and Inclusion. The two secondary themes will ensure that the breadth of advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies is addressed from the vantage of various countries, contexts and stakeholders. Throughout discussions, the issue of sequencing, policy prioritization, inter-governmental coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships will also feature.

For all plenary and break-out sessions, a variety of country, regional and global contexts will be discussed. As these themes are linked in practice, overlap will be present in interventions and experiences shared. Additional details of the conference themes will be provided in the coming months as the 2019 16+ Forum Timor-Leste Annual Showcase Agenda is further developed.

## Format

The 2019 Timor-Leste Annual Showcase will be comprised of a 4-day conference (11-14 November).

As part of each Annual Showcase, a Capacity-building Workshop is held with civil society organizations to strengthen their understanding of SDG 16+ and how to effectively engage on SDG 16+ advocacy and implementation at local, national and regional levels.

Field Visits to government institutions and civil society organizations further demonstrate SDG 16+ in practice.

Days three and four of the Main Conference consist of Plenary and Breakout Sessions, highlighting the host country's experiences in advancing SDG 16+, as well as those of other countries present. Through each component of the Annual Showcase, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, inclusion, and local and national ownership is emphasized.

Following the Annual Showcase, an Outcome Document is produced, capturing the most salient best practices and lessons learned, as well as key policy take-aways across country and context. Links to the Georgia and Sierra Leone Annual Showcase Outcome Documents can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively. Each Annual Showcase Outcome Document is submitted as official input to the subsequent HLPF in New York in July.

## Participants

With 170+ participants from about thirty to thirty-five countries, the Annual Showcase highlights how global rhetoric can, and has, translated into implementation across contexts.

**Government:** governments will be requested to propose one representative from capital (or otherwise relevant location in-country) and one representative from the diplomatic mission to the UN. The aim is to have government participants that are knowledgeable about what is being done on SDG 16+ in her or his country, able to share and build upon such experiences, and return better equipped for future related policies and implementation. Members of the 16+ Forum will be core participants.

**Civil Society:** civil society representatives form a critical component of the Showcase. Outreach efforts will ensure that local, national, regional and international civil society representatives are able to attend and contribute throughout the Showcase. While the majority will be from Timor-Leste (Dili and outside of the capital), the Showcase provides a

useful platform to bring the larger SDG 16+ CSO community together, from grassroots to global organizations.

**United Nations System:** The UN Resident Coordinator and members of the Country Team are anticipated to participate. Other UN representatives from a more regional level or HQ may also participate, lending various levels of expertise to discussions.

**Regional Organizations:** In keeping with the 2018 Annual Showcase in Sierra Leone, the 2019 Timor-Leste Annual Showcase will also incorporate a regional dimension. It is hoped to have the



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participation of ASEAN, its member countries, as well as Pacific Island States broadly. Given the importance of regional organizations to this context, and to global debates around sustaining peace, sustainable development and climate, their participation is expected.

**Private Sector:** national representatives from the private sector, including from local businesses and the entrepreneurship community, will be invited and are anticipated to attend. Given Timor-Leste's particular focus on the importance of economic diversification on the path to peaceful, just and inclusive societies, the engagement of both small and medium enterprises, as well as multi-national and international

corporates and businesses is anticipated, in coordination with the UN's Global Compact.

Partner member-state led initiatives, such as the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, are anticipated to attend.

## The Overarching Landscape and What We Will Achieve

Amidst a sea of dynamic multilateral agendas, UN General Assemblies and High-level Political Forums, the 16+ Forum offers continued and complimentary focus on SDG16+ implementation at the country level. In 2019, this is particularly timely.

In July, 47 Member States (and 7 for a second time) will gather at the High-level Political Forum in New York to present their Voluntary National Reviews focused on SDG 16, among five other thematically-highlighted SDGs under the heading of Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality. Timor-Leste will be presenting its Voluntary National Review for the first time and with SDG 16 at its foundation. In September 2019, Heads of State and Governments will then review all 17 SDGs at the SDG Summit.

With the 3rd Annual Showcase then taking place in Timor-Leste in November of 2019, governments, civil society organizations, the UN, academia, think-tanks and the private sector will be able to take stock of the year's SDG 16+ events, while again returning to a focus and commitment to national level implementation.

From the Expert Group Meeting in May to the SDG Summit in September and all political declarations, political statements and multi-stakeholder commitments in between, 2019 is the year for meaningful movement, momentum and mobilization on SDG 16+. Hosting the 3rd 16+ Forum Annual

Showcase in Timor-Leste falls perfectly within this sequence, reinforcing the importance of national-level implementation and tying in the Voluntary National Reviews.



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By bringing together various communities and stakeholders working on SDG 16+, the 16+ Forum, particularly through the Annual Showcase, is building the community of practice and strengthening our collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind.

## Our Principles

**Inclusivity** – bringing together governments and civil society from local, national and international levels, the UN, regional and international organizations, the private sector and others, we promote learning, exchange and partnership through inclusivity. Any Member State is welcome to join the 16+ Forum. Civil society and other stakeholders are integral, with equal opportunity to present their contributions alongside Member States.

**Solutions-oriented** – action and implementation at all levels has to match the ambition of the SDGs. Recognizing that one size does not fit all, the project will seek to foster mutual learning between different national and regional contexts, in a view to support global implementation.



**Complementarity** – the 16+ Forum is intended to complement and support the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda, as well as other SDG 16+ initiatives and partners within the UN Community. The 16+ Forum promotes a whole-of-society approach and so further welcomes collaboration with all stakeholders.

**National Ownership and Awareness Raising** – recognizing the broad scope of issues covered under SDG 16+ and the wider 2030 Agenda, the Annual Showcase and other 16+ Forum activity will be grounded in national ownership. This fits closely with the principles underpinning implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

**Universality** - mirroring the universality of the 2030 Agenda, participation in the 16+ Forum will be balanced with representation from around the globe. Each year, the Annual Showcase will aim to rotate to a different region, ensuring participation of diverse

stakeholders, multilateral cooperation and highlighting SDG 16+ implementation within varied contexts.



In sum, the 16+ Forum, through its Annual Showcase and complimentary initiatives, contributes to the SDG 16+ community of practice, while strengthening and building the movement for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

**The 16+ Forum is comprised of the following member states, the g7+ and WFUNA.**



The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations



The g7+



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