

16+ FORUM

Advancing Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

2019 ANNUAL SHOWCASE
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

11-14 NOVEMBER 2019



Sixteen
Plus Forum



World Federation of United Nations Associations



What Is the 16+ Forum?

In many ways the bedrock of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is about governance, inclusion and sustaining peace. From anti-corruption and the rule of law, to participatory decision-making, violence reduction and the promotion of peace, SDG 16 touches on all aspects of society and across the 2030 Agenda. It embodies a transformative and catalytic shift within the multilateral system and development community at large – that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

SDG 16+, which includes SDG 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.

Launched in April 2016, the 16+ Forum is committed to SDG 16+ implementation by showcasing what it means to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies in policy and practice at local, national and regional levels, and for a wide community of stakeholders – governments, civil society, the UN, regional and international organizations, academia and private sector.

A partnership between the Member States of Australia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Guatemala, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, and Tunisia, the G7+ and the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA) as its Secretariat, the 16+ Forum provides a platform to share best practices, while applying SDG 16+ as a lynchpin from which to

strengthen interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, and to others, such as Sustaining Peace.

The 16+ Forum provides a platform to universally demonstrate SDG 16+ in policy and practice, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and across countries and contexts. Through its global gatherings, events and publications, it facilitates dialogue, learning and exchange among stakeholders in implementation of SDG 16+ and the 2030 Agenda universally.

WHAT IS THE 16+ FORUM ANNUAL SHOWCASE AND WHY TIMOR-LESTE?

THE 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. 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.

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 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 is



was then Chair. In Sierra Leone, links were made between SDG 16+ and the New Deal, of which Sierra Leone is now 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 national and local levels towards SDG 16+ implementation, inclusive of challenges, successes and solutions. With 150-180 participants from about thirty countries, it highlights how global rhetoric can, and has, translated into implementation across contexts.

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 and national levels.

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

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

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 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July.

Ultimately, the Annual Showcase orients and grounds SDG 16+ in national-level implementation, impact and

sustainable change on the ground, regardless of context. Deliberations are currently underway regarding Timor-Leste's Flagship theme as host of the 2019 16+ Forum Annual Showcase.

The Overarching Landscape

In a sea of dynamic multilateral agendas, UN General Assemblies and High-level Political Forums, the 16+ Forum offers focus on SDG16+. In 2019, this is particularly important.

In July, 51 Member States will gather at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 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 both take stock of the year's SDG 16+ events, while again returning to a focus and commitment to national level implementation.

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.

By bringing together the various communities and stakeholders working on SDG 16+, the 16+ Forum and particularly through the Annual Showcase, is directly

building the community of practice and strengthening our collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind.

16+ Forum promotes a whole-of-society approach and so further welcomes collaboration with all stakeholders.

What Are 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

In sum, the 16+ Forum, through its Annual Showcase and complimentary initiatives, aims to contribute 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 12 member states, the g7+ and WFUNA as the Forum's Secretariat:



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 Peru to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea 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+ Secretariat