



Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
to the United Nations in New York

Statement by Mr. Licinio Branco
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Leste to the United Nations

SDG 16 High-Level Conference
Advancing Peace, Justice and Institutions for Sustainable Development

12 May 2025
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ
New York

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Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Timor-Leste, addressing the critical question of how we can reinforce the interlinkages between Sustainable Development goal 16 and the broader 2030 Agenda.

SDG 16—focused on peace, justice, and strong institutions—is not only a goal in its own right but also a cornerstone for achieving all other Sustainable Development Goals. For Timor-Leste, it represents the foundation of our development aspirations and state-building efforts.

We see three key avenues for reinforcing these connections:

1. Mainstreaming SDG 16 in National Development Planning

Timor-Leste's National Strategic Development Plan places strong emphasis on good governance, justice, and the fight against corruption. By integrating SDG 16 indicators across sectors such as education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and climate action (SDG 13), we promote a whole-of-government approach that supports inclusive and transparent development.

2. Strengthening statistical systems and promoting civic engagement through data and monitoring can generate synergies across the SDG framework. For example, improving civil registration enhances access to education, health, and social protection, while reinforcing the rule of law and securing identity rights.

3. Initiatives aimed at peacebuilding and conflict prevention—such as inclusive dialogue, decentralization, and support for local governance—directly benefit marginalized communities. These actions link SDG 16 with efforts to reduce poverty (SDG 1), address inequality (SDG 10), and improve educational outcomes (SDG 4).

Mr. Chair,

Our nation's journey in state-building has demonstrated that accountable, transparent institutions are essential for delivering public services and empowering citizens. Advancing goal 16 enables us to strengthen resilience, respond more effectively to the needs of our people, and ensure inclusive meaningful participation.

SDG 16 is not a standalone goal—it is a shared commitment and a powerful catalyst for progress across the entire 2030 Agenda. We remain fully committed to this integrated vision and stand ready to work with all partners to transform our collective goals into reality.

Thank you.