

## Report on the outcome of the Youth Forum



### 1. Introduction

Timor Leste Alumni Youth Parliamentary (Alumni Parliamentu Foin Sa'e Timor Leste - APFTL), supported by United Nation Residence Coordinator's Office, and in collaboration with partners including Ministry of Youth and Sports, organised a successful Youth Forum on the 5th of August 2024. The objective of the Youth Forum was to facilitate a dedicated youth event for young people to discuss key issues and opportunities related to 5 key areas in the proposed Pact of the Future. The event was participated by 88 youth leaders from 22 youth organisations. The youth leaders showed excitement and enthusiasm in participating in the forum and engaging in profound discussion on important topics from Youth and Future Generations, Science Technology and Innovations to a more complex topic related to SDG financing, Peace and Security and Global Governance. As a result, the forum has delivered **10 recommendations that reflect young people in Timor Leste's perception of the Summit of the Future as well as express their desire as Future Generations.**



## 2. Participants (Annexed)

The event was participated by a total of 128 participants (F:55 & M:73) from 22 youth groups consisting of youth organisations, Disability organisations, LGBTIQ community representatives, activists and academics in Timor Leste, News Media and UN agencies and Implementing partners.

### 2.1. Youth representative

<b>Youth Organisations</b>	Sectors	Number of Participants
<b>Comoro Children &amp; Youth Center</b>	Youth organisation	3
<b>AJHJTL</b>	Youth organisation	3
<b>ADTL</b>	Disability organisation	3
<b>CODIVA</b>	LGBTIQ organisation	2
<b>SOA TIMOR-LESTE</b>	Academics	3
<b>RHTO</b>	Disability organisation	2
<b>FORUM JUSTISA POPULAR</b>	Activist	3
<b>MSA Group</b>	Academics	5
<b>TLYFP</b>	Youth organisation	22
<b>ROTARAC CLUB</b>	Youth organisation	2
<b>PARLAMENTU FOINSA'E NIAN</b>	Youth organisation	10
<b>RYLA TL</b>	Youth organisation	2
<b>CORNER STORE</b>	Business Group	3
<b>GIRLS OUT LOUD</b>	Young women organisations	2
<b>YOUTH GENERATION IN TROBAS</b>	Youth organisation	3
<b>JUVENTUDE HADOMI NATUREZA (JHN)</b>	Youth environmental group	3
<b>CNJTL</b>	National Youth Council	3
<b>ESHANA</b>	Youth environmental group	2
<b>UNETL</b>	Youth & Scout organisation	3
<b>AJTL</b>	Journalist organisation	3
<b>LAUDATO SI</b>	Youth organisation	3
		<b>88</b>



## 2.2. UN Agencies and Development Partners

<b>UN Agencies and Development Partners</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	2
<b>UNFPA</b>	1
<b>WHO</b>	1
<b>UNW</b>	3
<b>FAO</b>	1
<b>USAID</b>	1
<b>EU</b>	1
<b>KIOCA</b>	2
<b>Plan International</b>	2
<b>Care International</b>	1
	15

## 2.3. News Media

<b>Media Organisations</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
<b>Jornal Independente</b>	3
<b>Dili Post</b>	3
<b>Media Democrasia</b>	3
<b>Lafaek News</b>	3
<b>TVE</b>	7
<b>RTTL</b>	3
<b>GMNTV</b>	3
	25

## 3. Brief Key Activities

### 3.1. Session 1

- Opening remarks by UNICEF country representative Ms Patricia on behalf of the UN Residence Coordinator
- A brief presentation on the Submit of Future by APFTL members.
- Speech from Mr Zaulino Gomes as the President of APFTL
- Youth representatives were divided into 5 groups based on 5 key areas on POTF. Each group consisted of 15-18 youth representatives.
- 1 member of APFTL facilitated the discussion in each group



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- UN Colleagues and development partners observed the group discussion.

### 3.2. Session 2

- Group presentation on their finding and recommendations from their discussion.

### 3.3 Session 3

- Two Panelists from the special guest were invited to make an overall comment on the POTF in general and on the recommendation from each group.
- Closing remarks by Ahmed Saleem on Behalf of the UN Residence Coordinator.

## 4. Topic of Discussion

The topic discussion focused on five critical areas as outlined in 5 Chapters of The Pact of The Future, such as Sustainable Development and Financing; Peace and Security; Science, Technology, innovation and Digitalization; Youth and Future Generations; and Transforming Global Governance.

### 4.1. Sustainable Development and Financing for Development

#### 4.1.1. Challenges

- There are no clear indicators to measure SDG achievement in the Timor Leste context.
- Lack of commitment from society to put sustainable development into practice.
- Timor Leste and other small island countries are affected badly by climate change compared to the developed countries and while we don't have enough resources to deal with the impact of climate change.

Lack of investment from the General Stated Budget in the productive sectors such as education, health agriculture and tourism

#### 4.1.2. Opportunity

- Timor Leste has a Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 which is aligned with SDG 2030
- Timor Leste has a traditional culture, "Tara Bandu," which can be leveraged to protect the environment and promote Indigenous knowledge for climate action.
- Timor Leste has a unique culture that can be transformed into community-based tourism, sustainable agriculture, and economic development.



## 4.2. Peace and Security

### 4.2.1. Challenges

- Youth involvement in conflict resolution is not considered while youth is utilised as a tool for political gain through conflict.
- Border disputes between nations have significantly contributed to conflict and war between nations.
- Military industry and war contribute to pollution and climate change.

### 4.2.2. Opportunity

- Timor Leste has a significant history of reconciliations and conflict resolutions with Indonesia that can be used as an example to promote peace and security.
- Timor Leste actively promotes peace and security through G7+ organisations

## 4.3. Science, Technology, Innovation (STI) and Digital Cooperation

### 4.3.1. Challenges

- Lack of knowledge and ability to use STI in policy development.
- Digital Illiteracy in youth and the local community leads to unintentional misuse of STIs
- Lack of proper regulations and cyber security in Timor Leste
- Inadequate infrastructure (internet connection, telecommunication equipment) to support access to digital cooperation.

### 4.3.2. Opportunity

- The rising enthusiasm and initiative from young people to engage in digital technology and innovation and to learn and develop knowledge and skills in STI.
- Emerging New Youth Leaders in STI
- Timor Leste and other less developed countries have started to acknowledge the significance of digital technology in development and invest in telecommunications equipment infrastructure and internet access.



## 4.4. Youth and Future Generations

### 4.4.1. Challenges

- Insignificant youth participation in decision-making and policy development in the local community and national or international level.
- There are significant numbers of young Timorese who lack professional and vocational training, which contributes to youth unemployment.
- Insignificant support in Youth Development from the Government.
- There are fewer opportunities for women, young girls, people with disability and the LGBTQI community to develop their skills and knowledge and still be considered a vulnerable group.

### 4.4.2. Opportunity

Youth Timorese has shown great potential and initiative to develop their skill and

knowledge in various areas, including participating in volunteerism initiatives.

- Youth awareness and concerns about global issues such as the impact of climate change, peace and security, and sustainable development have increased, and they are actively seeking solutions.
- Existing support from UN agencies and development partners through advocacy and youth initiatives programs in Timor Leste.



## 4.5. Transforming Global Governance

### 4.5.1. Challenges

- Small and less developed countries' opinion is often not considered in global discussions as decision-making is mostly influenced by big and developed countries. The Timor Leste community have not yet been truly impacted by the Green Climate Fund even though the consequences of climate change have badly affected our country.

### 4.5.2. Opportunity

- Timor Leste has a good reputation in terms of bilateral cooperation with other state members and can be used as an advantage to advocate on important issues, such as peace and security, climate change and global governance.
- The Paris Agreement 2015 grants opportunities to a less developed country to access the Climate Fund to tackle the effects of climate change.



## 5. Youth Forum's outcome:

### **Timor-Leste Youth Declaration for Summit of the Future**

1. We support the United Nations Secretary-General in taking ambitious action to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of our common agenda 2030, which is to leave no one behind, eradicate poverty, and promote an inclusive and just society.
2. As a youth and future generation, we want to have our voices heard in all processes of policy development and decision-making at the National or International Level.
3. We want more opportunities for youth to develop their skills and knowledge in Formal Education; Leadership; Science and Technology; and Vocational Education and Training to contribute to the development of our country and the sustainable development goals.
4. We recommend prioritising gender equality as stated in SDG 5 for young girls to have equal opportunity, especially in achieving SDG 2030.
5. We suggest having a youth representative from Timor Leste participate in a High-level United Nations Youth meeting to voice our ideas and concerns regarding global issues.
6. We recommend including youth as the main actors in conflict resolution, with all their potential to promote peace and security at the community, national, and international levels.
7. We acknowledge that the solidarity and humaneness value approach is important to prevent conflict between state members and adopt a people-to-people reconciliation in conflict resolutions.
8. We urged all developed countries to help and support the least developed countries in Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Cooperation.
9. We recommend investing in Youth as the main actors in the development of Science, Technology, Innovation as well as Digital Cooperation. We want youth to lead in promoting Science, Technology, and Innovation and combating digital illiteracy in the community. We want to utilise Science, Technology, Innovation as well as Digital Cooperation to advocate and promote gender equality and social inclusion.
10. We ask all state members to continue to respect the Paris Agreement 2015 and we urge all state members to be responsible for their carbon emission production and facilitate access to climate funds for countries that are suffering from the negative impact of climate change to bring climate justice to all people and the planet.





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### 6. Annexed:

#### 6.1. Pictures





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Respeitosamente,  
  
[Zaulino Gomes da Silva]  
Presidente APFTL