



## CONCEPT NOTE

# A Pathway to SDG 5: Timor-Leste's Model for Coordinated GBV Prevention and Response

## 1. Context

The 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) side event ***“A Pathway to SDG 5: Timor-Leste’s Model for Coordinated GBV Prevention and Response”*** brings together leading regional and national institutions committed to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in all spheres of life in Timor-Leste. Organized by the Government of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste through the Secretary of State for Equality, with support from UN Women. This strategic collaboration offers a unique platform to share the country’s experiences, foster cross-regional knowledge exchange and promote cooperation aimed at transforming harmful gender norms and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in Timor-Leste and across the region.

The side event will be held on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development 2025, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), taking place from 14 to 18 July, and 21 to 23 July 2025, at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.

This side event will feature a diverse and dynamic dialogue to promote innovative and transformative leadership by leveraging integrated and interlinked partnerships to drive collective action in combating violence against women and girls – particularly in Timor-Leste and across the region. Such collaboration is not only essential for achieving SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment, but is also critical for advancing the region’s sustainable development and peace.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a prerequisite for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. While undeniable progress has been made over the past decades, evidence shows that the world is still not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

The review of Beijing +30 demonstrates that although there have been improvements in education, health, and political representation of women and girls, gender-based violence remains alarmingly widespread - one in four women experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Violence continues to pose a significant barrier,

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<sup>1</sup> Charting New Path for Gender Equality and Empowerment: Asia-Pacific Regional Report on Beijing +30 Review



limiting women's full participation in the economy, education, politics and other development sectors. Entrenched inequalities persist across almost all sectors of society, both in Timor-Leste and across the region. These disparities have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Timor-Leste, 33% of girls and women between the ages of 15 to 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners.<sup>2</sup> The Law Against Domestic Violence, enacted in 2010, criminalized domestic violence as public crime. Subsequently, Gender Based Violence - Action Plans have been developed and approved for the third time. The first NAP-GBV (2012-2016), Second NAP-GBV (2017-2021) and Third NAP-GBV (2022-2032), establishing mechanisms for prevention, essential services provision and access to justice. According to the Law against Domestic Violence, Rede Referral was also established and made up of two working groups; 1) Coordination of the provision of essential services lead by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and 2) Coordination on advocacy strategy by SEI.

To address a widespread of Gender-Based Violence, an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Coordination of Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation of the NAP-GBV also established based on the Government Resolution No. 34/2017 to provide guidelines for monitoring and supervising the implementation of the NAP-GBV. Coordination mechanisms with development partners, civil society actors, national and international NGOs and the wider community regarding provision of services are also function. Timor-Leste has prioritized strong partnerships and cooperation at both national and local levels as crucial and strategic modalities for prevention and respond, while also addressing emerging challenges.

Partnerships with key State institutions focus on collaborative efforts to strengthen institutional capacities to address GBV, particularly through national and sub-national coordination mechanisms. These partnerships enable the effective implementation of interventions and promote the sharing of insights and analysis across government structures that deliver frontline services to GBV victims and survivors. The impact of political leadership of the coordinated and interconnected partnerships across the GBV response ecosystem plays a pivotal role in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

## 2. Objectives

The objective of this side event is to serve as an interactive platform for key stakeholders to share their experiences in working collectively to address all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence in Timor-Leste. It will also serve as a space to examine what has worked well, the challenges that remain, and the need to mobilize resources to strengthen efforts in prevention, service provision and access to justice. The dialogue aims to assess

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<sup>2</sup> Timor-Leste's Demographic Health Survey 2016



progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5 (“achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”) and target 5.2 (“eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”).

Specifically, the side event will aim to:

- Share Timor-Leste’s experience in addressing violence against women and girls.
- Showcase promising practices in transformative and collective actions to develop responsive policies and measures for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.
- Exchange innovative tools and resources, and foster partnerships among Member States, and regional and global partners to act collectively.

### 3. Modality/Structure of Event

The side event will be convened in-person at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Following welcoming remarks by the Government of Timor-Leste, Special remarks by Executive Director, UN Women, the President of Republic Democratic Timor-Leste will deliver a Keynote Speech. This will be followed by panel discussion in an interactive format to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A session. UN Women, as sponsor of the side event, will also give a closing remark.

### 4. Venue

The side event will be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025, at 13.15 – 14.30 at the UN Headquarters, Conference Room 8, New York.

#### Agenda:

13.15 – 13.30	<p>Welcoming Remarks: (5)</p> <p>H.E Mr. Dionísio Babo Soares, PhD, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations in New York</p> <p>Opening Remarks: (5 mins each)</p> <p>Ms. Amy Nishtha Satyam, Head of Office, UN WOMEN Timor-Leste</p> <p>H.E Ms. Elvina Sousa Carvalho, Secretary of State for Equality of Timor-Leste</p>
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13.30 – 13.35	Keynote address: (5 mins) H.E. Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, President of Timor-Leste (video message)
13.35 – 13.40	Brief Video about Timor-Leste and Gender Based Violence (3 mins)
13.40 – 14.25	Panelists: (5 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E Ms. Elvina Sousa Carvalho, Secretary of State for Equality, Timor-Leste</li><li>• H.E Mr. José dos Reis Magno, Vice-Minister for Institutional Strengthening in Health, Timor-Leste</li><li>• Ms. Beth Delaney, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, New York</li><li>• Mr. Renaud Savignat, Head of Section for Sustainable Development and International Partnerships at the EU Delegation to the United Nations</li><li>• Ms. Erin Kenny, Global Coordinator, United Nations Spotlight Initiative</li><li>• UNFPA – HQ</li><li>• UN WOMEN – HQ</li></ul> Moderator: Ms. Santina Soares, Policy Advisor on Gender Equality and ASEAN Affairs to the Secretary of State for Equality, Timor-Leste
14.25 - 14.30	Closing Remarks (5 mins) Ms. Amy Nishtha Satyam, Head of Office, UN WOMEN Timor-Leste

## 5. Participants

The side event will bring together representatives from government, development partners, civil society organizations, academia and professionals working collaboratively to prevent and response gender-based violence, and to accelerate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

## 6. Contact Persons:

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