

As one of Asia's newest countries, we thank the government of Timor Leste for undertaking this VNR. Civil society welcomes the continued opportunities to engage with the government to work towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

We acknowledge the governments' attempts to align SDGs implementation with the Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, however the mechanism for ongoing engagement remains unclear. We also recognise the government's efforts to include the civil society in the social audit process to facilitate the improvement of development in the country.

With a centralised system of planning and decision-making, we want to ask how will the government enable meaningful participation and localize SDGs at the municipal level, ensuring local governments understand how SDGs help to accelerate development that leaves no-one behind. We request the government to include and engage the Civil society in capacity building in localising the SDGs.

We seek to know, how will the government maximize the participation of the representatives from each line Ministry to be more active in SDG working group meetings in the future? We call on the Government to strengthen the role of oversight body to including National Parliament to monitor SDGs implementation

The cross-cutting themes that determine all SDGs for all countries are environmental issues and the global climate. Today all greenhouse pollution indicators and direct effects are accelerating. To achieve any SDGs, global emissions have to be put into decline rapidly starting in 2020, as is universally agreed by science.

Hence its important to know the mechanism in place to educate citizens on environmental issues, environmental sustainability and the global climate. We also seek to know what budgetary allocations are put in place to ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups in the SDG implementation?

The time for committed, urgent, and meaningful action is now. We are encouraged by the efforts of the government and welcome the opportunity for continued partnership between them and civil society in the future.