



Statement

by

**H.E. Ms. Sofia Borges
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Timor-Leste to the United Nations**

to the

**Tenth Session of the Open Working Group
on Sustainable Development Goals**

Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

4 April 2014

New York

Co-Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of São Tomé and Príncipe and my own country. We align with the statement delivered by Palau on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The centrality of peaceful societies and capable institutions cannot be overstated.

All research and development experience shows that peace and stability in a society, capable and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for men and women are at the very heart of successful development experiences. We also draw attention to the fifth pillar of the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Agenda.

They are not simply crosscutting issues or means of implementation; they are the essence of any progress as the experience in Timor-Leste is showing.

That is why we support strongly this focus area, and that is why we have consistently advocated for a goal on building peaceful, stable societies and capable institutions.

It is about leaving no one behind, and ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world have access to all of the benefits of sustainable development. And to ensure there is no backslide on gains made in poverty eradication.

Co-Chair,

The targets we prioritise are universally applicable and fundamental to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development. They focus on capacity, accountability, human and financial resources, accessibility, social cohesion and inclusion. Because it is these elements that will make the development agenda truly sustainable by ensuring institutions function fairly, effectively and accessibly in the provision of public services for all, and are the key determinants of peaceful and stable societies.

Co-chair,

The targets we propose are:

- Strengthen the capacity of national and local government institutions to guarantee ownership and use of country systems.
- Ensure universal access to public services and detailed accounts of public spending and other publicly owned information.
- Collaborate to reduce illicit financial flows and tax evasion, and increase stolen asset recovery.

- Provide free and universal legal identity to all citizens, which is often a pre-requisite to access basic services, social protection measures and engage in employment and business.
- Ensure equal opportunities for representation in key public decision-making agencies, disaggregated by gender, social, ethnic or other groupings.
- Increase opportunities for people to participate in inclusive political dialogues and engage in decision-making processes disaggregated by gender, social, ethnic or other groupings.
- Decrease numbers of, and find durable solutions for, internally displaced people from all forms of shocks, including: natural disasters, conflict, climate change and other social, economic or environmental disturbances.
- Increase the opportunities for people to participate in formal and non-formal dispute resolution mechanisms disaggregated by gender, social, ethnic or other groupings.

Co-Chair,

These targets apply to every country, and can be measured by a basket of nationally relevant indicators.

They reinforce and are reinforced by targets across interdependent focus or goal areas, including:

- The provision of quality health care, education, energy, infrastructure, water and sanitation
- Promoting equality, the empowerment of women, and the eradication of violence against women and children
- Promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth and decent work, especially for marginalised youth
- The conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas, and the protection of vulnerable ecosystems; and
- Responding to the devastating effects of climate change.

Collectively the targets we have prioritised strengthen our global efforts to eradicate poverty and chart us on the path towards sustainable development. They underscore the unbreakable bond between peace, effective institutions and development, as enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, Rio+20, and the outcome document of the special event on the MDGs.

They recognise that peaceful and stable societies are better placed to realise inclusive economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability.

None of our global goals can be achieved if we do not have capable institutions to equitably deliver social services, manage our economies and protect our environment.

These two dimensions of Focus Area 19 are intrinsically linked. Together, they are about building stronger, more resilient societies, and connections between people and their governments.

Co-Chair,

We do not disagree with those who believe that the Security Council or Peacebuilding Commission have important roles in maintaining peace and stability. But, they are tools contributing to a peace goal – they are a means, not the end. And, they cannot by themselves achieve this goal sustainably.

Building institutions, developing a peaceful and stable society requires long-term development, commitment and investment, well beyond the scope of these bodies.

It requires a compact between the country and its long term partners – bilateral and regional support, private sector and market development, integration into regional and international arrangements, all aimed at developing the institutional framework of a country.

That is why my country was keen to end the Security Council's engagement in December 2012, and decided not to be included on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. In doing so we were deliberately avoiding the one-size-fits-all model.

Instead we asked the Secretary-General to provide us with a Special Adviser for Development to help broker those critical long-term relationships in support of a sustainable long-term national development and institution building agenda, and to secure the attraction and investments necessary to achieve this.

All this centered on our own institution building efforts not intergovernmental bodies or bilateral expectations. All underpinned by peace and stability and anchored in national ownership.

I thank you