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Report on The Launch of Guiding Principles On The Timorese Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding

Produced by The Youth Taskforce:

- 1. Nelcia Guterres Belo (Member of youth parliament)**
- 2. Antonio Isabel da Silva (Member of Life Skill Basic Education)**
- 3. Recardino da Costa (National Union of Scouts)**
- 4. Joaquina Soares de Carvalho (Ex-member of youth parliament)**

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INTRODUCTION

National development can be accelerated when the youth majority contributes to the economic, social, and political development and is a way for a nation to combat poverty, guarantee stability, and promote a sustainable society. Likewise, peace, progress and prosperity will not be well achieved if a nation does not respond to the basic needs of its young population. In regard to the context of Timor-Leste, the country is at a critical juncture in terms of its development peace-building processes. Thus, it is important that youth become partners and leaders in these processes now and in the future. On 17th of November 2013 at the National Youth Forum at Joao Paulo's hall in Comoro, Timor Leste's Prime Minister, Kayrala Xanana Gusmão, in his speech, addressed the young attendees saying: *“The messengers of development is in the youth's hands. I am asking you to not just wait but to make every effort to contribute to the development of this country”*.

Fostering social cohesion and trust through an inclusive and participatory peacebuilding process during and after a transition or conflict is a challenging but necessary task. Many key stakeholders remain on the margins or excluded from the process. In particular, the potential contribution and inclusion of young people¹ to effective peacebuilding has received little attention and support. Yet young people's leadership and roles in preventing and resolving conflict, violence and extremism are rich resources essential to achieving sustainable peace. Young people are valuable innovators and agents of change, and their contributions should be actively supported, solicited and regarded as essential to building peaceful communities and supporting democratic governance and transition. Moreover, young people's participation promotes civic engagement and active citizenship.

2. The General Situation of Youth Today

Timorese youth played a significant role in the struggle for independence. They made many sacrifices in order to participate in the struggle as many had to leave their families and studies to ensure Timor-Leste's liberation. Many sacrificed their own lives. After gaining independence, many leaders were worried about the many priorities including responding to the needs of youth but to date there has not been any significant results.

Timorese society has been facing many challenges and problems that emerged after the restoration of independence in 2002 but little attention has been given to the youth from the political leaders. This has led to conflict and violent acts in the communities both in the districts and in Dili. The violent activities

¹ Defined by the United Nations as between the ages of 10 and 24.

mainly emerged due to problems of unemployment, emergence of free markets, inflation, and domination of foreign workers opening businesses. These factors have left youth out of the process which leaves them feeling like observers, not as active actors in the development process of their own country.

According to the 2010 Census², 46 per cent of Timor-Leste's populations were under the age of 18 while 30 percent were between the ages of 15 and 29 years old. Every year 15,000 - 20,000 enter the job market but employment is scarce, especially in the districts, which is a pull factor for youth to come to Dili to look for education, employment, and vocational training opportunities. Moreover, many young Timorese are seeking opportunities to study and work abroad through scholarships and overseas employment programs or with support from their families.

Evidently, Timor-Leste's young population is facing many obstacles that can impede the peacebuilding and development process. Some of the challenges³ that youth face are full of complexities that put youth at risk, especially those who become or are involved in violent activities, combined with economic, social and political factors such as:

- ***Poverty and Unemployment:*** there is much poverty caused by the massive numbers of unemployed youth. The reasons of such high numbers of unemployed young individuals can be attributed to low education and skills levels and lack of information about available jobs.
- ***Connection and Cohesion in the Community:*** the youth do not have strong relationships in the family, community, and school. Community leaders don't see the advantage of youth in their communities, lack of information, and the community itself does not give value to how youth can make a positive contribution to their community.
- ***Marginalization and Dissatisfaction with the Political Process:*** many politicians use and take advantage of the Timorese youth for their own interests, especially in the process of mobilization for political interests. In addition to lack of commitment of the political leaders to give popular education to the young people, lack of involvement in civic participation, and dissatisfaction with government leading to lack of patriotism and no sense of national identity from youth.
- ***Society and Culture:*** domestic violence that transpire in the family and community, lack of understanding about gender equality; easy access to gambling, cheap wine and cigarette; modernization and lack of understanding and responsibility in accessing cyberspace/internet.

² Census 2010, Ministry of Finance, Government of Timor-Leste

³ Some of these challenges came up out of events such as District Youth Forum, and the top 10 topics discussed included clean water, education, electricity, health, land disputes, unemployment, natural disasters, infrastructure, domestic violence, martial arts and sexual violence.

- ***Weak Justice Institutions:*** weakness of the justice system and its mechanism, which leads to loss of trust from young people and the community in general. Some examples: impunity, where many cases are submitted to the police but the investigation process takes a long time; police interventions are against basic human rights; the mentality of the military and police are not friendly (have tendency to use rough attitude like that of the Indonesian military during occupation).

With the above factors, a pull factor has occurred where youth are joining together into groups and also hiding their identities in these groups to protect themselves from the environment in which they live. Many times throughout the youth forums held by SFCG, many of young people voiced their feelings of insecurity in their own communities, feeling prejudiced, and so they have no clear vision for their futures.

The problems that the youth face are also problems of Timor-Leste's society as well. Many concrete efforts from the leaders has minimized or reduced the number of youth involved in violence. However, in order for these efforts to be effective, the leaders should recognize that young people are victims of manipulation and recognize that young people also become the 'puppets' of violence. Therefore, young people need to gain some benefits and contribute to the development of Timor-Leste. In the right conditions, youth have great potential to contribute positively to the peacebuilding process, which will give them positive benefits. Young people are often educated⁴ and many of them have organized themselves into groups, associations, as well as into civil society organizations.

Young people in Timor-Leste have a true desire to build peace in their own families and communities. According to SFCG's 2012 baseline survey⁵, results showed that 22% of the 601 youth interviewed from six districts (Aileu, Baucau, Dili Ermera Liquica and Manatuto), said that they were involved in peacebuilding activities and 20% had participated in community projects. This can also be observed through the participation of youth in peace-building activities such as civic leadership training, youth forum and other peacebuilding related activities. Youth were very active, and they gave their opinions about how they can contribute to and strengthen peace and security in their own communities as well as nationally.

SFCG together in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the "Youth Engagement to Promote Stability" (YEPS) program, United Nations Organizations (UN), National Youth Council Timor-Leste (CNJTTL) have taken the initiative to launch "The Guiding

⁴ According to 2004 National Census, 60% of young people from ages of 15 - 19 have completed secondary education, compared with 30% from age of 25 - 29. Young people from age group of 15 - 19, 26% are illiterate, compared to 54% from who are aged 6 and above.

⁵ Dhungana, S. K., and Adams, A., 2013, Youth, Democracy and Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste.

Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding”⁶. These guiding principles were developed after a long process, which involved inputs from government, donors and civil society organizations focusing on the participation of young people in peacebuilding.

3. The Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding

3.1. Introduction

The United Nations Secretary-General stated in his report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of a Conflict “*a successful peacebuilding process must be transformative and create space for a wider set of actors - including but not limited to, representatives of women, young people, victims and marginalized communities; community and religious leaders; civil society actors; and refugees and internally dislocated persons - to participate in public decision-making on all aspects of post-conflict governance and recovery*”.

Fostering social cohesion and trust through an inclusive and participatory peacebuilding process during and after a transition or conflict is a challenging but necessary task.

Yet young people’s leadership and roles in preventing and resolving conflict, violence and extremism are rich resources essential to achieving sustainable peace. Young people are valuable innovators and agents of change, and their contributions should be actively supported, solicited and regarded as essential to building peaceful communities and supporting democratic governance and transition. Moreover, young people’s participation promotes civic engagement and active citizenship. Promoting the participation of young people in peacebuilding requires multiple approaches. These include:

- (1) *A human rights-based approach*, grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the World Programme of Action on Youth;
- (2) *An economic approach* that identifies young people as central to the economic development of their country, and promotes their access to economic opportunities as essential for their own development;

⁶ Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding.

- (3) A *socio-political approach* that connects young people to civil society and the political arena, and provides them with opportunities, training and support for their active engagement and participation in public life; and
- (4) A *sociocultural approaches* that analyses the roles of young people in existing structures and supports dialogue – including intergenerational dialogue – about these structures.

The principle of ‘do no harm’ is fundamental in all instances, and requires an awareness and active avoidance of the negative consequences that interventions can inadvertently create. In addition, all participation should be based on free will. The principles listed below were identified to offer guidance to key actors, including governments; United Nations entities, funds and programmes; local, national and international non-governmental organizations; civil society actors; and donors. The principles are designed to inform participative, inclusive and intergenerational peacebuilding strategies and programmes that systematically promote and ensure the participation and contributions of young people in challenging contexts of conflict, where violence has often become the norm. The principles are not listed in order of priority and are each of equal importance.

3.2 Launching the Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste

The Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding were officially launched on April 24th 2014, in New York, alongside the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies. In Timor-Leste, the launch was held on May 30th 2014, focusing on present context and results of discussion on the guiding principles and testimonies from youth on their involvement in youth related activities inline with the guiding principles.

The launch, held by SCFCG, USAID, UN Residence, GIZ and CNJTL, had more than 100 youth participants, and started at 09:00am on 30th May in Delta Nova hall, Comoro. After the opening speeches from Ms. Lisa Whitley, representative of Mr. John Seong, USAID Mission Director in Timor-Leste; and Mr. Sérgio Muchanga, representative of Mr. Knut Østby, UN Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste, and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, Mrs. Idelta Rodrigues, representative of Vice Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Mr. Fernando “Lasama” de Araujo, the guiding principles were officially launched.

The young people attending showed great enthusiasm to be part of the launch program. Previous to the launch, SFCG and CNJTL teams facilitated a preparation forum for more than 80 young people from

thirteen districts, to explain more clearly about the nine (9) guiding principles and look at how to apply these principles to the context of Timor-Leste; to brief the youth on what will happen at the launch on May 30th so that tasks can be delegated to the young people in order to lead the launch process. The nine principles are:

1. Promote young people's participation as an essential condition for successful peacebuilding
2. Value and build upon young people's diversity and experiences
3. Be sensitive to gender dynamics
4. Enable young people's ownership, leadership and accountability in peacebuilding
5. Do no harm
6. Involve young people in all stage of peacebuilding and post-conflict programming
7. Enhance the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and competencies of young people for peacebuilding.
8. Invest in intergenerational partnerships in young people's communities
9. Introduce and support policies that address the full needs of young people

An important part of this launch was the opportunity for youth to give their testimonies to the audience, share their experiences and strengthen young people's commitment to get more involved in the peacebuilding process. Another part of the launch was the panel discussion with representatives from United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality, National Police of Timor-Leste and Secretary of State for Security. Through the panel discussion, young people raised their concerns and gave recommendations to the representatives of the government, United Nations and donors to fortify their commitment to address the needs of young people. The results from panel discussion; especially recommendations from the youth are detailed in the following section.

3.3 Recommendations

Based on the results from the panel discussion, SFCG-TL and CNJTL created a task force, which consisted of young Timorese who would work together to collect data and draft ideas in order to put together a set of recommendations that will be used to advise the government, UN, and the donors in Timor-Leste. After much research and discussion, the task force would like to provide the following recommendations:

3.3.1 Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SEJD)

The SEJD's strategy for youth and sports development in Timor-Leste is to develop youth and sport with the aim to increase youth participation in governance, societal change, prepare better resources for all youth and sport organizations and prepare basic infrastructure for youth and sports activities. SEJD has also provided funds and support for various activities such as for sports federations, community sports, Youth Parliament, and cooperating with the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEPFOPE) to look at vocational training for youth. Lastly, the SEJD passed the government's resolution no. 16/2013 to close martial arts groups and made it illegal to continue any activity related to martial arts.

Youth Taskforce recommends:

Development of a National Youth Policy that is clearly defined and based on youth needs from the rural to national level. To do this we recommend that SEJD:

1. Carry out studies and research to review or revisit the progress of implementation of the national youth policy since 2007, including challenges and obstacles, advantages and disadvantages to be used as a reference for the future revision of the national youth policy.
2. Establish a consultation process that is systematic and appropriate to the revision process of the current National Youth Policy, which focuses not only on the quantity of involvement but also on the quality and substance of the consultation itself.
3. Explore, adapt and consider using methodology that is being used by other organizations in order to accelerate the consultation process, and to ensure that there is no duplication, for example: Childfund and Red Cross have their own methodology used in their seminars and camps; and SFCG Timor-Leste through the YEPS and Democracy and Development in Action through Media and Empowerment (DAME) projects has an experienced and qualified team which has facilitated district, regional, and national forum using open space technology methodology to encourage youth to talk about their issues and ideas.
4. Work together with all youth groups that already exist in districts to accelerate consultation process; such as through Youth Parliament, district youth councils, youth leaders that were identified during SFCG's youth mapping. Moreover, SEJD should

establish a district level steering committee, which involve groups and youth leaders so that they can direct the consultation process itself.

5. Involve the Timorese academics in the revision process of the National Youth Policy and limit the number of internationals directing the process.
6. Recognize and consider integrating some principles into the National Youth Policy such as these guiding principles as requested by the Vice Prime Minister through his speech, which was read by Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, Mrs. Idelta Rodrigues, during launch of Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding.
7. Allocate the necessary funds based on youth needs and respond also to the National Youth Policy in order to contribute to national development and to build peace which is sustainable, systematic and significant based on the action plans from the youth.
8. Have a good monitoring and evaluation system that can measure results from the state budget allocation and spending, which can be done through the Youth Parliament network.
9. Have adequate and strong coordination between each ministry so that there is no duplication of work between SEJD, SEPFOPE and Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management; specifically to give priority to young people to take part in National Village Development Program (PNDS) and other development initiatives so that the youth do not become just observers or audiences within their own communities.
10. Socialize more information for all youth starting from the village level up to national level through the media including community radio as well as youth parliament so that youth gain knowledge about the progress of SEJD's work.
11. Develop capacity building strategy that is systematic and efficient for the members of Youth Parliament so that they can carry out their roles as youth representatives that are confident, believe in themselves and strong.
12. Strengthen the role of the youth representative in village councils, so that they can actively participate in the decision-making process and in developing adequate capacity building plan.

13. Implement again the Life Skills Basic Education (LSBE) Program for youth.

3.3.2 Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEPFOPE)

SEPFOPE is the central organ of government which has the mission to conceptualize, execute, coordinate and evaluate its policy as approved by the Council of Ministers, in the areas of labor, vocational training and employment.

To achieve this mission, SEPFOPE carries out the following functions:

- Propose policies and define labor regulations, such as vocational training and employment
- Seek contracts for Timorese citizens to work abroad;
- Regularize and control internationals/foreign workers in Timor-Leste;
- Promote and control health, security and hygiene in workplace;
- Establish or set up the mechanism of collaboration and coordination with other organs of government in relevant areas.
- Promote rights of equal employment opportunity and participation of all and integration of all staff that may have disability.
- Promote tri-party relationships (between three people/institutions) with objective to prevent conflict in the workplace.
- Develop and promote control on labor legislation/laws and also for the international labour conventions that have been ratified by the government of Timor-Leste;
- Provide assistance to all workers and employers in labor disputes and cases;
- Define and execute the standards for employment promotion and combat unemployment;
- Carry out other work according to law.

Youth Taskforce recommends to SEPFOPE

1. Create a good system by establishing job market that can accommodate youth that have been trained including those who have worked overseas, to receive small grants to start and/or expand their own businesses.
2. Have a good monitoring and evaluation system that can measure results from the state budget allocation, spending and activities, which can be done through the Youth Parliament network.

3. Provide inclusive education, formal training or non-formal training that is specific to disabled youth, especially those who are living in rural areas.
4. Disseminate more information about SEPFOPE's youth strategies from village level up to national level through media, including community radio and Youth Parliament networks.
5. Increase and spread out the number of SEPFOPE Career Fairs to village level.
6. Improve and strengthen inter-ministerial coordination to develop integrated plan that does not multiply state budget spending in each ministry.
7. Establish 'One Stop' intervention to attend to youth needs through SEPFOPE's planned and implemented activities, especially in districts, and in different areas, such as promotion of youth participation in agriculture, community tourism, courses or trainings in English or IT that are creative and have good vision that can be applied to community development.
8. Develop some interventions to promote and provide employment for youth, specifically in agriculture sector, and increase youth's capacities in abovementioned areas so that youth can actively contribute and gain sustainable benefits for their family economy.
9. Accelerate youth-focused self-employment program and give importance for market-sellers through developing market policy with strategies that can accommodate and attract vendor and consumer interest.

3.3.3. Secretariat of State for Security (SES)

SES has a 5-year strategic plan that includes maintaining public order that is linked to conflict prevention and strengthening security. Therefore SES established National Directorate of Community Conflict Prevention (DNPCC) during the term of the 5th Constitutional Government. The public order strategy has already allocated focal points and mediators in all 13 districts that are selected from community leaders, veterans and youth, in addition to establishing a Conflict Prevention Network. SES also has mandated to develop national action plan for Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), which is coordinated with the Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI).

The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) works in two areas: administrative reform and public order. PNTL has its own mission and vision for 5 years known as "VIP": Visibility, Integrity, and

Professionalism. PNTL now has police posts, which have community police and security volunteers, and have already launched a PNTL recruitment video. The recruitment process also involves Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and National Guard Portugal (GNR) to prevent nepotism and ensure human rights are upheld. More than 9,000 young individuals have taken the exam but there is no recruitment law that defines the criteria that the candidates need to fulfill.

SES has its own plan for the future to work with youth including early warning system through the focal point and the mediator as well as linking with some young people that have previously committed crimes. SES is also partnering with the government and civil society to provide civic education. Given that the martial arts groups and land disputes problems are still a security concern, SES is giving civic education in Dili and Ermera, and will continue in Viqueque and Baucau, targeting young people, who are considered to be delinquents. SES also has plans to work with NGOs, such as Ba Futuru and Ita Ba Paz in the dissemination of martial arts groups' law and civic education. Conflict prevention is key for peacebuilding and Timorese society does not need to wait for the donors to prevent conflict; we (Timorese people) have our own methods like *Tara Bandu* and *Nahe Biti Boot* and others. PNTL hopes to have the collaboration of youth from all 13 districts in conflict prevention.

Youth taskforce recommends to SES and PNTL to:

1. Establish effective line coordination with the relevant institutions/organs before the implementation of youth programs to promote the participation of young people in peacebuilding.
2. Create a good monitoring and evaluation system that can measure results from the state budget allocation, spending and activities, which can be done through the Youth Parliament network.
3. Further strengthen socialization through intensive civic education catered for young people.
4. Strengthen more partnership support in the area of conflict research and youth engagement.
5. Improve the recruitment process of PNTL to ensure credibility and increase the number of training centers that can accommodate the number of candidates.
6. Provide specific training on methods of conflict mitigation and other training related to ethics of professionalism, morals and mentality including regular training on human rights principles and other human rights instruments.

7. Establish good relations between Community Police and young people in order to work together in the interest of stability, through regular dialogue to promote understanding about conflict prevention and non-violence in the community.
8. Promote the good services of PNTL through the media such as radio and television through “Reality Show” to spread and give positive example of the police’s work and their relationship with the community and young people.

3.3.4 Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI)

SEPI works in the area of gender equality through ensuring gender mainstreaming in all sectors, projects and programs. By integrating gender mainstreaming, change is made in attitudes so that men and women can participate in development. SEPI also works to increase women’s participation in decision-making in the government, NGOs, and in all places, as well as in economic decision-making. SEPI also works with Caucus and Fokupers on how to ensure gender balance in the political sphere. Every year SEPI gives awards for people that implement gender programming in all districts, and encourages youth nomination, especially male youth. SEPI’s focal points and gender working groups have been set up in every district, which SEPI encourages young people to know. Lastly, culture is the identity of a nation but sometimes the culture itself can be discriminatory and problematic,, e.g. *barlake* has become a business. Everyone has a role in combatting gender discrimination.

Youth taskforce recommends:

1. Empowerment of young women on qualitative participation, through training programs in their areas of work.
2. Improve the mechanism of socialization on domestic violence law, starting from the sub-village and village level, and work together with young men and women to be the agents of change to accelerate SEPI’s strategy to combat domestic violence and gender-based violence.
3. Develop the ‘cadre’ strategy that will better engage young women into all sectors.
4. Proactively socialize gender awareness and equality into families through working more with SEPI’s focal points.
5. Strengthen SEPI’s work together with other partners to improve the delivery of social services in domestic violence cases.

6. Increase and strengthen interventions to prevent and reduce the cycle of domestic violence by working with the church and with boys and men.
7. Provide small grants for young women's and men's groups to carry out activities that can promote gender equality and prevention of violence against women and men, starting from the schools.

3.3.7. The UN Agencies in Timor-Leste

Even though the UN mission in Timor-Leste has already ended, some of the UN agencies are still present in Timor-Leste such as UNESCO, UNDP, UN Women and others. Currently, the UN is working with the Government of Timor-Leste to plan and implement programs based on priorities that have been identified, which these guiding principles can help address. UN has been working with the government in the area of youth such as through UNICEF, UNESCO and International Labor Organization (ILO) in sectors of education, employment, etc. UN also works to operationalize the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and to achieve an environment of harmony.

Youth taskforce recommends:

1. LSBE program also be integrated into the UN program
2. Socialize and widen the UN-volunteer program for the youth in Timor-Leste
3. Strengthen relations with the Government of Timor-Leste to support strategic sectors that can promote the increased participation of Timorese youth at an international level
4. Create alternative programs and strategies for youth, such as ambassador exchange programs with youth from other countries. This will broaden youth's minds and understanding about global issues affecting youth and find a common global solution for a youth-friendly environment.

3.3.8 Donors

Youth taskforce recommends that donors:

1. Strengthen support through funding that prioritizes capacity development for children and youth in all projects.

2. Develop long-term strategies that can respond to youth needs through multi-sector and holistic youth-focused programs.
3. Provide more investment in youth; even though some donors have increased their support for youth work in social, economic and political development, there are not enough strategies or information about policies and strategies. Complementary policy and strategy development can be reflected through providing funds to implement programs that specifically respond to the needs of youth.
4. Provide additional support to youth activities. While many donors have been supporting youth activities, the problems youth face have not been clearly defined in a comprehensive manner. Furthermore, there is not much information available in regard to youth programs and funds. Therefore, we recommend donors to evaluate how programs and activities can be adjusted to be more in line with donor's policies and strategies, and to re-examine their policies and strategies in order to develop policies that respond to youth needs.
5. Gather donors together through dialogue to discuss various program models in order to promote the participation of youth, improve communication about successes and failures, and identify barriers and solutions to these obstacles.
6. Encourage practitioners to conduct a comprehensive review of youth programs, with specific focus in the business development area such as youth livelihood, youth entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment and violence prevention in order to collect key lessons learned. This can also include building resource centers for youth or develop online resources centers, which will gather all research results and key evidence from guidelines, references and case studies.
7. Develop programs to encourage youth to work in agriculture that is sustainable and lucrative through economic development over the long-term so that rural-urban migration of youth can be reduced. We recognize that the government has been giving incentives to agriculture through the supply of equipment but there needs to be a transformation of the agriculture sector to become a potential job market for the youth so that they can improve their livelihoods and prosper through agribusiness.

3.3.9 Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organizations, which includes-NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in Timor-Leste, must be registered in Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations Timor-Leste (FONGTIL). In FONGTIL's external evaluation report in 2009, a total of 652 NGOs and CBOs (International and

National/Local) were registered as members of FONGTIL. At present there are only 375 members.

Youth taskforce recommends:

1. Civil society creates integrated coordination mechanism to consider possibilities of bringing their resources together as required.
2. Evaluate the vision and functions of civil society network in order to direct and reflect common interests that are inclusive of youth needs.
3. Establish resource centers for youth programs, which utilizes a model that applies the context, environment, and history of Timor-Leste, and avoids strategies from other countries.

Conclusion:

The guiding principles, through this launch, is meant to bring to people's attention the importance of including youth in the development process and to remind all entities, from Government, national and international NGOs, of their duty to engage and involve youth in all stages of the development process through an intensive and sustainable set of programs to address youth needs and interests.. Moreover, these guiding principles are a request to donors to make funding and support available to NGOs in order to provide adequate support and capacity building to youth, so that in the future the youth themselves can manage funds.