

Universal Periodical Review

Fourth Cycle

51st Working Group

São Tomé e Príncipe



Rights to Life and Peace Life and Peace Constitutions Improvements

17th of July 2025¹

*From the politics of taking life to the politics of affirming it
From the politics of paying for war to the politics of offering peace*

*Looking at life as the marvels of marvels
Living every instant making life better*

**We understand the right to life as being
the joyful and universal fulfillment of life,
as being everyone's responsibility to sustain life,
as being the right not to be killed.**

We are all center to our lives,
We are all global to our planet,
May we all be nonkilling,
We are all a Center for Global Nonkilling².

The Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) has a unique mission,
inspirational for Individuals and Creative for Societies:
**'Promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world
by means of infinite human creativity, in reverence for life'.**

Nonkilling is a paradigm, a principle, a plan and a road map³.
The paradigm is giving worth to universal life, sustaining it for all individuals, for humanity and for Earth.
The principle is for every individual to receive and share life's fulfillment.
The plan is happiness. It is a sustained sign of quality for life and of universal solidarity.
The roadmap is **universal fundamental methods**, serving all human rights and freedoms.

Nonkilling is one of these fundamental methods.
Such methods are always peaceful and always empowering for persons, societies and institutions⁴.
Nonkilling is knowing, preventing and measuring occurrences
where life can and shall be valued, improved and saved.

The Center for Global Nonkilling was founded in 2008 by Glenn Paige (1929-2017).
He was Professor of Political Science and author of the widely translated book:
"Nonkilling Political Science"⁵.
The center has United Nations' ECOSOC consultative status since 2014⁶.

We do Universal Periodic Reviews and participate to the Human Rights Council at all sessions.
To universally sustain and improve life in peace:
We make a systematic call to all States for the **urgent and universal ratification** of the **Convention on
the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**.
We make UPR submissions to all States still in need to do this ratification.
We make a systematic call to all States for the **urgent and universal decriminalization of suicides**.
We make UPR submissions to all States still in need to do this decriminalization.
We make a universal call to all People, States and Institutions for the enhancement and implementation of
the **life and peace constitutions**, for the universal fulfillment and respect of **all human rights**.
We also deliver other UPR submissions, oral statements and recommendations as we deem necessary⁷.

Happy people breed a happy world

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Universal Periodic Review of São Tomé e Príncipe

We wish a happy, constructive and peaceful Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to the People and the Authorities of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe.

Summary

This is our first submission for the Universal Periodic Review of São Tomé e Príncipe.

We compliment São Tomé e Príncipe for the life thriving 2012 constitution including a will to imply people's participation in public affairs. May this be reflected as well through the UPR process.

We compliment São Tomé e Príncipe for a large ratification of Human Rights treaties.

We recommend the **urgent** ratification of Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the ratification of the Convention on enforced disappearances and of the remaining protocols.

We suggest the establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, encourage sustained efforts in the treaty bodies reporting process, and to accept requests for Special Procedure visits.

We also suggest adopting a National Strategy to sustain peace and the prevention of violence as proposed and adopted in the United Nations Pact for the future, action 18d.

Prevention of genocide



The right to live is also to duty not to kill.

Duty for individuals and inasmuch for societies and groups of people.

Every person needs a life. Every person needs an identity. Every person needs to be part of a social group to live in and to relate with. Every person is part of society and has the right to relate with its government and institutions. Every person deserves and shall receive the possibility of thriving for the good of each and all. Every person has the right to be protected by the State. All individuals, all social and political groups shall be protected from genocide, which shall be effectively prevented.

Ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and adapting local laws is one of these prevention means. A rather simple commitment and act of Government⁸.

We recall that the United Nations Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide has called for, on the 70th anniversary of the Genocide Convention in December 2018 for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide⁹. We also recall that the Human Rights Council regularly adopts by consensus resolutions containing a similar call.

Moreover, ratification is a clear and strong sign sent locally and to all humanity showing that the respect of life and all lives are essential, now and ever more.

Ratifying the Convention is also an overall measure preceding or accompanying other preventive measures and policies in favour of life and well-being, locally and globally.

Tools and initiatives are available for an efficient prevention of genocides and killings of all sorts¹⁰.

São Tomé e Príncipe supported recommendations received in the two last cycles demanding the ratification of the Convention¹¹.

Hereupon, to progress towards universal nonkilling, we strongly urge and recommend to the authorities of São Tomé e Príncipe the swift ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Ratification before the passage of the Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe before the Universal Periodic Review Working Group on Tuesday 17th of January 2026, or eventually before the final approval of the UPR report of São Tomé e Príncipe by the Human Right Council in June 2026 will be an act of reason, a delight for the cause of humanity – a highly appreciated and celebrated move for the world as for São Tomé e Príncipe and its people. Thank you.

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**Calling on each and all to attain a nonkilling world,
where life can be peacefully sustained on Earth,
we welcome the delegation of São Tomé e Príncipe
to Geneva, City of Peace
and wish you, as to all the people of São Tomé e Príncipe,
a constructive, successful, enhancing and fulfilling
Universal Periodic Review.**

¹ Date of submissions to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Slightly revised versions may appear thereafter.

² <http://nonkilling.org/center/how-to-help>

³ It is S.M.A.R.T: Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realist and Timely.

Simple: Happiness. The simple sign of the worth of life. The simple way to fulfillment, to be open and stay open to happiness, to do our part for it and it will simply guide in the proper direction. What else?

Measurable: A) life's existence is a 1 or 0 factor, most simple: alive or not.

Admittedly, some thresholds at birth and death, but for the rest life and living are an easy to grasp, unique and wholesome, factor or measure ... Living it well is a nice adding.

I do use a happiness scale to gauge my life and to look at other humans and creatures.

Fulfillment is a bit further on the scale, basic needs need to be met for that. Happiness helps.

B) Reducing unwanted death occurrences, injury and violence, is measurable. And we, humanity, we are largely on our way in this direction.

Statistics and life's conditions improvements show we progress in many fields; suicides, homicides (including in conflict) and traffic, work and leisure casualties are successfully preventable without reducing fundamental freedoms. Figures are improving in these cited fields as in many others. They are no direct priorities in these fields; all lifesaving and life improving means, as well as accurate methods to do so are equally needed.

Greater longevity, less security needs and moreover more time, method and ethics to care for each other are some of the signs and surely the rewards of this wholesome life enhancing process.

Please do your part!

Achievable: saving life, giving universal meaning and worth, quality and quality standards to life is the best and most fulfilling intent, said simply "a purpose for life". Once the intent is in place and the means to achieve it are made available, what we all need is a final a push to make life safe for everyone on Earth, and so to pass from too frequent survival (or conflictive) stages for our civilization (in all its diversity) into a living and sustained quality of life for all.

Realist:

As this is what humanity, everyone needs and deserves, with our well understood instincts and some human genius – we have plenty of both – most likely, it will be done. The sooner the better, every life counts!

Please enjoy doing your part!

Timely: This needs to be peacefully understood: the time is now.

Because said again, every life counts. And because the loss of each life that could have been prolonged with more precaution, prevention and gentle care is a shame to our hearts, but may be also a definitive loss for our humanity as a whole, or for its genetic pool, the human conscience science, the human value and potentials.

Because humanity is also facing a few life threatening challenges as a species, we need a peaceful climate to survive, peace within ourselves as a species and peace with our natural environment as a species deemed to survive as far as possible into the future – may it be said differently, its own possible eternity.

Please enjoy doing your part! And please joyfully bring others to do theirs!

S.M.A.R.T: Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realist and Timely.

⁴ Listing some of these fundamental and universal human methods in a somewhat free order of importance would be education, participation, inner and outer celebration of life, peacemaking, minimum standards of living, prevention, and if need be peaceful settlements of disputes. As one may see, both human rights and peace encompass these methods. Keywords could well be "do no harm", "nonviolence" and "comprehensive peace policies". The United Nations Pact for the future, action 18d, recommends the establishment of National Strategies to sustain peace and the prevention of violence.

⁵ Available in Portuguese: <http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-translations>

⁶ We are present at all sessions of the Human Rights Council and we systematically do Universal Periodic Reviews submissions since 2015.

⁷ We are apt and equipped, using statistic, indicators and local information for doing complete country portraits, or partial scans of the status of the rights to life and to peace in any given country. See examples here, the most recent one being San Marino in July 2024, a killing-free country. Shall you wish to see it done for your own country or anyone, please contact our office, the author of this submission or our UN team. <https://nonkilling.org/center/nonkilling-monitoring-programs/nonkilling-activity-at-the-un/>

⁸ Under article 13 of the Sao Tomean Constitution, sections 2 and 3, the Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe is a monist country, international law is directly applicable. Therefore, once ratified, the genocide convention is directly applicable in the country. Whatsoever, the criminal code (2012) punishes genocide, article 210, so the obligation contained in the convention making it necessary to integrate the crime of genocide in local legislation is met twice.

Ratification of the Convention is the competence of the President (constitution, article 82b) after approval by the national assembly (article 97b). The Council of State must or may be consulted (article 90.2e).

⁹ http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/171208_AD_International%20Day_FINAL.pdf

¹⁰ I. e.: <http://www.gaamac.org/organizations>

¹¹ Armenia 2016, n° 107.40. Spain 2021, 106.15