

Conscience and Peace Tax International
For the right to pay taxes for peace, not for war
NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

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Rights to Life and Peace Related Human Rights Issues

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"From the politics of taking life to the politics of affirming it"

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We understand the right to life as being the full enjoyment of Life, as being the right not to be killed, as being everyone's responsibility not to kill or let others die.

The Center for Global Nonkilling has a unique mission, inspirational for individuals and transformative for societies: "To promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world, by means open to infinite human creativity, in reverence for life".

Introduction

The Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) was founded by Glenn Paige (1929-2017), political science Professor, author of the book "Nonkilling Political Science" translated in numerous languages¹. The Center is a worldwide congregation of persons, scholars and others, working at creating societies that do not kill.

Valuing life in all its dimensions is a necessary mission; please join the Center for Global Nonkilling, be a nonkilling centre yourself celebrating, enhancing and protecting life².

CGNK has ECOSOC consultative status since 2014. At each UPR session, we make one or more comprehensive submissions encompassing a complete "cliché" of the situation of life in the country under review. We also make short submissions on specific issues³ and we address a recommendation to all States yet in need of ratifying the Convention on the prevention and the repression of the crime of genocide.

Human rights

All human rights are universal, of equal importance, indivisible, interlinked and mutually reinforcing. They rise out of, and are express by the best of our human nature and they are confirmed by our knowledge, feelings and values. They are enhanced and remain through awareness, practices and kindness. They are needed to build lasting, prosperous and thriving humane societies, on a sustainable planet, enabling everyone to lead a fulfilling life, in solidarity, leaving no one behind.

As a universal legal basis, *fundamental rights* form the basic infrastructure of our civilisation, as needed to flourish in dignity, through present times and future History. Human rights are supported and implemented by using universal and peaceful *fundamental methods* such as education and exemplarity, prospective and evaluation, the cultures of peace and non-violence, cooperation and consensus, prevention and precaution, peaceful settlements of disputes, reconciliation and reparation, lessons learned and best practices. These fundamental methods are needed for the full respect and the common enjoyment, for the achievement of all human rights, as well as for the existence and continuity of our societies and cultures.

The right to life

Compared to other human rights, the right to life has four specific features:

- a. Though all human rights are of equal importance, dignity is the paramount right, present when each and all human rights are fulfilled. Similarly within all human rights, the right to life is the preceding right: if life is taken all human rights are cancelled. Joyfully living, sharing a happy and solid ground for existence, one's own and the life of all, highlights the value of life and of the right to life. Further, quality of life, in equality, is the basis needed for peaceful progress, for the proactive fulfillment and the completion of all human rights.
- b. There are no possible restrictions to the right to life: one is either alive or not. Issues pertaining to the beginning and the end of life such as reproductive rights, abortion, suicides and euthanasia, as well as prenatal and genetic engineering should be dealt with in a preventive, human and humane, sustainable manner for each and all, in full dignity.
- c. There is only a single way to guarantee the respect of life and the right to life: **prevention**. Once life is lost, compensation may be due, yet they are no possible re-establishment of life, of the entitlement to life.
- d. So forth, the right to life is also the *absolute duty not to kill*. As such, the right to life is a **fully reciprocal right**, granted to all, to be granted by all to all, individually as collectively.

The Center for Global Nonkilling holds all persons and institutions responsible for refusing to grant any *right* to kill. Killing is never admissible. So forth, though not *rights*, three *powers* to kill are still sometimes legally conceded, though only under very strict and exceptional circumstances. We do not approve or condone to theses existing powers to kill: they shall be considered unwanted remnants of the past and cease to be exist and be used as fast as achievable⁵.

These three exceptions sometimes granted to the right to life are:

1) The use of *legitimate self-defence*.

Legally, self-defence requires a proportionate reaction in response to a direct, severe and imminent threat that cannot be addressed otherwise. Alternatives exist: the circumstances in which self-defence may be needed are always a failure of prevention. A failure that should be thoroughly analysed to extract lessons learned and design more accurate policies for the future, the best practices needed to avoid recurrence. If these circumstances where self-defence may be needed nevertheless occur, using nonviolent means the reaction shall never result in maining or killing. Whatever the ends and means used are, the result of the use of self-defence shall always be reviewed by an independent legal authority.

Use of force highly impacts on the rights to life, personal integrity and security. It shall always be avoided, or highly limited⁶: all the more if it's not self-defence. Exemplarity of States' practices is here at stake for the promotion and the respect of and for all human rights. Thus, utmost attention shall be given to prevent situations which may result in use of force, or further in loss of lives or maiming. Prevention failures by law enforcement authorities shall be cautiously and thoroughly monitored to extract lessons learned, instigate human experience and as need be enhance policy change. Methods used when the use of force is nevertheless needed shall be

inspired by non-violent techniques: force is not violence if it does not cause harm⁷. Official use of force shall always be totally monitored by an independent mechanism including civil society members and representatives of victims. To enhance morale and practices, law enforcement officers confronted with violations of human rights have a right to and a duty of conscientious objection, doing so without prejudice or penalties, without reprisals if legitimate.

2) Death penalty.

If ever permissible, State killing is a major and definitive breach of the right to life. It is the worst example a State can give of its respect for life and all subsequent cancelled human rights. For those still living, it also directly violates numerous other human rights, including those of other related persons. It is considered an inhumane, cruel and degrading treatment⁸.

Death penalty is incompatible with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). These grant universal development and intend to "leave no one behind". Unanimously adopted by all Members of the United Nations, they require, quote: "Significant reduction of violence and related killings (SDG 16.1)". This includes killings by States.

3) Powers of war.

As conceded by humanitarian law, they allow under certain strict circumstances and given certain precautions only, the taking of life of enemy soldiers. Seeing that respect of life prevails, always, nullifying this exception to the right to life, the stain war is human History and the dignity of humanity is one of the objectives of the Center for Global Nonkilling.

Please join us, for the respect of life, in building a peaceful world for each and all.

The right to peace

Peace originates in our human nature and is supported by human feelings, knowledge and practices, methods. It starts through education, is supported by non-violent institutions and endeavours, public peace policies, peaceful prevention and settlement of disputes and it continues through personal engagement. No life would be possible without a sufficient attainment of peace and dignity can only be achieved when peace and human rights prevail. Peace is a right, but also a universal deed and a method needed for the common and reciprocal completion of all human rights.

Peace is fully present, if not worded, in article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized".

It is through a peaceful order that such an endeavour can be accomplished: all rights set forth in the Universal Declaration fully expressed and realized. It is through positive and proactive public peace policies that peace will prevail and remain untroubled⁹. The links between *human rights and peace* are developing; they need permanent and universal support and reinforcement¹⁰.

So forth, we congratulate Mozambique for approving in 2016 the General Assembly's Declaration on the Right to Peace¹¹. It is now time to develop and implement peace and the right to peace, peaceful means and subsequent public peace policies¹².

Other related human rights

All human rights are needed for the fulfilment of a safe and happy life. However, some of them may be of more direct importance for the full realisation of the rights to life and peace.

The *right to participle in the decision making* including for women, youth, persons with disabilities and all vulnerable persons and social groups is highly important. It creates inclusive, proactive and humane societies where responsibilities are equally shared towards the well-being of all. The more people participate in the decision making, the more people work by consensus, the more people will respect the consequences of their decisions and the easier it will be to achieve SDG 16: safe and inclusive societies.

The right to *accurate standards of living*, including the rights to food, water and sanitation, clothing and housing, the rights to work and social security deserve full attention, in all circumstances.

The *right to health* is an essential right for the fulfilment of the right to life and of the subsequent right to longevity. It is needed as well to achieve societies in which *human rights are all equally shared*. The *human right to a sustainable environment*, thus sustaining humanity and life on Earth, deserves accurate protection and full attention as well.

The *right to happiness* and fulfilment of life should always be mentioned:

"Happy people breed a happy world"

Universal Periodic Review of Mozambique

All States have a full duty of exemplarity. Such a duty of being examples in the respect and promotion of human rights is vested in their commitment to life and human rights. It is also enshrined in the capacity of each and all, of all of us to give the best of ourselves.

The duty of exemplarity is somehow expressed in international law, as it is needed to reach the legitimate and peaceful goals of the International Community.

We wish a happy, constructive and peaceful UPR to the people and authorities of Mozambique.

Summary of our recommendations

To ratify the Enforced Disappearances convention.

To change the Constitution to grant therein the right to life universally, and not only to citizens.

To grant to the people a right of participation on constitutional and legal issues, through rights of initiative and referendums.

To adopt a human right to peace and to design comprehensive public peace policies.

To grant a right of conscientious objection to military budgets and to create therefore a peace fund dedicated to non-military peace activities.

To ratify the humanitarian, peace and disarmament treaties it is not yet party to.

To adopt prevention programs regarding violence, suicide and homicides.

To enhance data collection on suicide and homicides.

To create civil mechanisms for an independent overview of the use of force.

The right to life in the national and international human rights constitutions

Within the human rights constitution, the following treaties are the basis of the protection of life: the Convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of *Genocide*; the Covenant on *Civil and Political Rights* and its Optional Protocol aiming at the *Abolition of the death penalty* and the Convention on *Enforced Disappearances*. These are the minimum standards needed, for any country, to internationally recognize and show full legal respect for life and the right to life.

National constitutions shall similarly reflect this necessary and universal stand in favor of life.

More than by legal aspects, it is consciously by our knowledge of the bounty and the beauty of life that we make for a happy and universal, sustained and lasting life. Our ethics, best practices, and historical progresses; our heart feelings and well understood instincts, and all the good will we show may and shall guide us towards our fulfillment. When we offer knowledge and feelings to each other and to humanity, we create the solidarity needed for Life on Earth. When institutions and their representative understand this and promote individual and collective life, happy life; when they exemplify progress in dignity, thus we may attain and achieve a sustainable civilization on Earth. However, our institutions may only be guided by our personal and own, brought together commitments to give a future, a meaning and a worth to the lives we all live and lead, leaving no one behind, for ourselves as for our world, now as for future generations.

We congratulate Mozambique for the ratification of all major life preserving treaties, except the convention on enforced disappearances.

<u>Illegality of enforced disappearances</u>

To be granted a life is also receiving a right to a presence, to a public presence before the law and to a private presence, an acknowledgeable presence with and for one's kin.

As such enforced disappearances violate numerous human rights, be them in law or in *jus cogens*. However, the convention goes further and has universal effects. It contains provisions regarding cases beyond the national territory¹³.

There are, as known today, three cases of enforced disappearances listed by the working group on enforced disappearances in Mozambique and the State has not replied to demands by the working group¹⁴.

Recommendations made during the first cycle of the UPR were supported, yet the ones made during the second cycle were noted ¹⁵, while ratification was under evaluation for domestic implications ¹⁶. We sincerely hope this evaluation has been constructive.

I. We hereby recommend to Mozambique the ratification of the Enforced Disappearances Convention.

Life in the national constitution

During the second cycle of the UPR, we noted that the constitution granted the right to life to "citizens" only; what about foreigners¹⁷? This is in contradiction with article 6 of CCPR, to which Mozambique is party: life is inherent to "all" human beings.

II. We encourage the people and the authorities of Mozambique to initiate a participative process to reform the constitution and reflect in it the right to life in a universal manner.

The right to life in practice

Some indicators

Homicides

With a murder rate of 4.24 for 100,000 inhabitants, the rate is lower than world average (6.1, 2017¹⁸, 5.78 2018¹⁹). However, data collection quality is considered "low" by UNODC²⁰.

Using WHO data, there is (or seems to be) an increase in recent year from 2.5 to 4.2²¹. A trend confirmed by the fact that there is now extremist violence in the north of the country²² and what seems to be sometimes an un-proportionate response by security forces²³.

Sustainable Development Goals goal n° 16.1 aims to: "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere"²⁴. We sincerely regret that the VNR 2020 of Mozambique has not taken in account or reported on the indicators related to the number of deaths due to homicide (16.1.1) and conflict (16.1.2).

To improve the protection and fulfillment of the right to life in Mozambique, we recommend:

III. To enhance data collection, analysis and reporting on causes of death.

- IV. To adopt public peace policies (see hereafter the peace constitution).
- V. To adopt violence prevention plans as recommended by the World Health Organisation and by SDG 4.7 (i.e. education to a culture of peace and non-violence)²⁵.
- VI. To enhance conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes mechanisms.
- VII. To adopt programs to reduce the presence of firearms.

Suicides

In our previous submission, we highlighted the fact that suicide rates were very high in Mozambique²⁶ and that they concerned mostly older persons. No recommendations were made on the topic.

As for homicides, data quality can be improved as Mozambique does not appear in all reports yet. However, according to the most recent World Health Organization, suicide rate is declining from 8.8/100,000 inhabitants in year 2000 to 4.9 in 2016²⁷, below the regional average of 7.4²⁸.

We congratulate Mozambique and its people for these worth mentioning progresses.

Nevertheless, suicide prevention is a global – and national – imperative²⁹ as recognized by the Human Rights Council in various UPR's and by the Human Rights Committee in its general comment on the right to life³⁰.

We recommend:

- VIII. To enhance data collection, analysis and reporting on suicides.
- IX. To present the national suicide prevention program in the national report and at the working group.

The international and national peace constitution

Mozambique known the atrocities of war: it is now time to prepare the blessings of peace.

X. Under SDG 16, peaceful and inclusive societies, we recommend to Mozambique the adoption of a national and comprehensive "public peace policies" plan.

The national peace constitution

The Constitution of Mozambique beautifully promotes peace and peaceful settlement of disputes both domestically and internationally.

"Article 11. Fundamental objectives

"The fundamental objectives of the Republic of Mozambique shall be: (...) - The promotion of a society of pluralism, tolerance and a culture of peace (...).

Article 22 (in the foreign relations chapter): Policy of peace

- "1. The Republic of Mozambique shall pursue a policy of peace and shall only resort to the use of force in the case of legitimate self-defence.
- 2. The Republic of Mozambique shall support the primacy of negotiated solutions to conflicts.
- 3. The Republic of Mozambique shall uphold the principle of general and universal disarmament of all States.
- 4. The Republic of Mozambique shall advocate the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a nuclear free zone of peace".

Because of the ground given by these dispositions for the promoting of peace, more can be and should be done for the respect of life through public peace policies.

As examples:

A human right to peace

To give to the people a sentiment of ownership and inclusivity, as well as possibilities to instill the progresses of peace proposed by the General Assembly's declaration on the right to peace endorsed by Nepal:

XI. Inscribe the right to peace in the constitution.

Teach peace, non-violence and human rights

To assure that the progress of peace and human rights is made through all generations, existing and upcoming and through all spheres of society:

XII. Teach peace, non-violent methods, civic participation and human rights at all levels and stages of the curricula, as prescribed by SDG 4.7.

Proactive and cooperative citizenry through dialogue with the authorities on all major issues

XIII. Institute a constructive dialogue between the all people and all their institutions.

To this end, grant to the people an extensive right of participation, by:

- a. Granting a systematic right of referendum on constitutional changes.
- b. Granting, if called for by enough citizens, a right of referendum for all adopted laws and treaties.
- c. Consulting all stakeholders before adopting new laws.
- d. Regularly consulting the population regarding planning.
- e. Consulting owners when affected by constructions.
- f. Establishing a prospective and evaluation body in the system of government³¹.

To assure prevention and avoid aggravation of conflicts

- XIV. Guarantee to all the people a right of access to peaceful settlements of disputes.
- XV. Provide widely available training and salary for mediators.
- XVI. Create a nationwide and local complete coverage with peace zones and local peaceful settlements of dispute locations and institutions.
- XVII. Assure that all decisions taken by these institutions as well as by the judiciary contain recommendations for non-recurrence, addressed to all organs of society and all concerned persons.

To prevent violence

XVIII. As violence prevention is a State duty, inscribe violence prevention in the constitution (and as seen above, reinforce violence prevention mechanisms).

Mozambique has a conscription disposition provide for in the constitution, as well as alternative service for conscientious objectors (art 267). However, though all are drafted, only a few effectively serve which could probably be done on a voluntary basis. Moreover, conscription measures have caused some turmoil within the population.

XIX. Therefore, to avoid building further a military and killing spirit within the population, we recommend that the Government of Mozambique renounce imposing a draft.

To limit unnecessary use of force

XX. Train police officers to use non-violent force and equip them with non lethal weapons only.

XXI. Grant police officers, when brought to circumstance in which they may commit human rights violations, with a right of conscientious objection.

As even in most democratic States, judiciary control over police activities has too often proven insufficient,

XXII. Create an independent body, exerting full control over any official use of force, drawing lessons learned and implementing best practices. This institution shall include victims, citizens and civil society representatives.

To finance peace:

XXIII. Recognize a right of conscientious objection to paying taxes for the military budget.

XXIV. Create a mechanism allowing people who do not want to pay for war, war personnel and war means to reallocate their public contributions to non-violent state activities, or

XXV. Create a peace fund exclusively dedicated to nonkilling and non-violent, non-military and non-aggravating peacebuilding.

The international peace constitution

For the well-being and the safety of its entire people and of the world; for the progress of peace, non-violence and nonkilling worldwide, for the fulfillment of SDG16 and the end of the scourge of war, we recommend to Mozambique:

XXVI. Accepting the reciprocal automatic jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice³².

XXVII. We also recommend the ratification of the following humanitarian, peace and disarmament treaties and conventions:

- The third protocol of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Kampala amendment.

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- The three Hague conventions on the protection of cultural property.
- The Enmod convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environnemental modification techniques.
- The convention on conventional weapons and its protocols.
- The convention on chemical weapons³³.
- Thank you for signing last month the treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Please ratify it as soon as may be.

Life is what we make it and the experience form past, projected in the future creates the quality of the present moment!

We are all part of it!

Calling on each and all to attain a peaceful and nonkilling world,
where life can be lastingly sustained on Earth,
we welcome the delegation of Mozambique to Geneva,
the City of Peace
and we wish you, as to all the people of the country,
a constructive, successful, enhancing and fulfilling
Universal Periodic Review.

effective protection is the prerequisite for the enjoyment of all other human rights (...)". https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/1 Global/CCPR C GC 36 8785 E.pdf

⁵ In our humble and legal opinion, legally granted powers to kill are also insults to law: law should be made to serve life and life only. We wait with patience but persistence for the end of all legal and illegal killing as we know we have, humanity has, the means needed to achieve such a noble goal. It is a choice we encourage you to do as well.

is most precious for its own sake as a right that inheres in every human being, but it also constitutes a fundamental right whose

- ⁶ The constitution of the Swiss local State of the Canton of Geneva states it clearly (§ 184.3.): "Conflictive situations are treated in priority so as to rule out, or limit the use of force. Concerned persons have a duty to concur". Unofficial translation from French. https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20132788/index.html#a184
- ⁷ The "do no harm" principle and methods apply to law enforcement.
- ⁸ See i.e. the 9th meeting of the 34th session of the Human Rights Council.
- They are possibilities described here: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/39/31

We add peaceful settlement of disputes for internal disputes as for international ones.

¹⁰ See 3rd meeting of the 34th session of the Human Rights Council on mainstreaming human rights on the contribution of human rights to peacebuilding, but also resolutions 2250 on youth and peace of the Security Council, the common resolution of the General Assembly and the Security Council (2282) on Sustaining peace. Or the 13th of June 2016 appeal by Switzerland and 70 States, https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-62152.html.

The United Nations General Assembly's Declaration on the Right to Peace A/RES/71/189, link here after.

- 11 http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/71/189; https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/855187?ln=en, p. 26.
- ¹² Such public peace policies have been presented more thoroughly in our submission for Lesotho:

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRLSStakeholdersInfoS35.aspx, joint submission n° 4.

- ¹³ A strong measure that will prevent the occurrence of enforced disappearances will be to include in law, in the criminal code or the criminal procedure code a disposition by which any person arrested has the right to make his arrest know, within 48 hours of his arrest, to a person or an institution of his choice or one designed therefore. A public roster of arrested persons shall be available to persons making a legitimate demand and prolongation of the 48 hours delay may only be authorized, for investigative purposes, for a very short time and non-renewable period.
- ¹⁴ https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/13, 7.8.2020, § 44.
- 15 https://upr-info-database.uwazi.io/library/?q=(allAggregations:lf,filters:/cycle:(values:l/b237423c-6c85-4329-b3b0-acd1ceae04ed,%273eec3a87-0825-4a8f-a37d-6ca7b03715e4%27)),state_under_review:(values:!(p4a67b5nbi))),from:0,includeUnpublished:!f,limit:30,order:desc,searchTerm:%27enforced%20disappearances%27,sor t:creationDate,unpublished:!f)
- ¹⁷ Art. 40 Portuguese version available here: http://aceproject.org/ero-en/regions/africa/MZ/mozambique-constitutionportuguese-version/view. English Version here:

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Mozambique 2007.pdf?lang=en

The constitution was amended in 2018, but did not change this: http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/moz117331POR.pdf in Portuguese.

- ¹⁸ UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2019 (Vienna, 2019), booklett 2. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-andanalysis/gsh/Booklet2.pdf, p. 11.
- 19 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.P5, quoting UNODC.
- ²⁰ Idem, p. 14
- ²¹ https://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.VIOLENCEHOMICIDEv
- ²² Sustainable Development goals voluntary nation report (VNR) 2020, p. 8-9, 72, 81.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26314VNR 2020 Mozambique Report.pdf

²³ https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/mozambique/report-mozambique

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/at-least-52-youths-in-mozambique-killed-by-armed-group/1813730

- ²⁴ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal
- ²⁵ https://apps.who.int/violence-info/country/MZ

https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en 26 https://theconversation.com/unpacking-claims-that-mozambique-suffers-from-a-very-high-suicide-rate-77251

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¹ http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-translations

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

³ For more comprehensive analysis, see as examples the ones recently done for the UPR's of Nepal, Lesotho, Costa Rica or Mauritius. Such submissions look at all legal and practical aspects of the right to life and the rights needed to sustain a fulfilling and lasting life, including in relation with the Sustainable Development Goals. Statistics are used therein to uphold the Universal Periodic Review process regarding the fulfilment of life from conception until death, including inter alia reproductive rights and abortions, birth registrations, child and mother's mortality, suicides of all sorts and homicides, traffic, work and leisure casualties and life expectancy. Other topics such as deaths in custody, minimal standards of living and other applications of the right to life may be added as accurate for the enhancement, the enjoyment and the protection of life and of the right to life. Rights to health, to a healthy environment and to peace, all deeply related to the right to life are studied as needed or according to available means. ⁴ The Human Rights Committee, in its general comment 36 on the right to life describes it this way: "It is the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted (...). The right to life has profound importance both for individuals and for society as a whole. It

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=8&DocTypeID=11

31 It his is not in the role of the national planning commission: https://www.npc.gov.np/en

²⁷ https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.sdg.3-4-data?lang=en

²⁸ https://www.who.int/gho/mental health/suicide rates crude/en
29 https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/preventing-suicide-a-global-imperative

³⁰ Comment 36, § 9 and 25.

³² https://www.icj-cij.org/en/declarations

³³ https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl