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**Introduction to the role of the religious communities in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goal 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”**

The conference paper/presentation gives a short introduction to the role of religious communities in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goal 16, “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” with a focus on peace, as seen from different academic disciplines. It emphasizes the need to develop new interdisciplinary concepts to the topic in order to give a more realistic and holistic view on the role religious communities play in shaping a peaceful society. Since peace in a religious context is often connected to peace between different religious communities within a society or state, the approaches of the disciplines of theology, religious studies and political science to interreligious dialogue will be presented. It will be shown that none of the disciplines alone meet the complexity of the topic, with each of them concentrating on limited questions, e.g., referring to religious scriptures or security issues. Further, it should not only be the goal of academic disciplines to analyse existing contributions of religious communities to a peaceful society, but also to define concrete scope for action where activities of religious communities should be further promoted and to make this scope for action to a point of reference of further research and activities. Examples for such scope for action will be given, presenting some activities of religious communities in Asia. Since peace is closely intertwined with other Sustainable Development Goals such as climate action or gender equality, the paper/presentation will also point to examples where interreligious dialogue influences positive developments in other areas than peace.

Keywords: religious communities, peaceful society, interreligious dialogue, Asia