This session will discuss the role of the United Nations (UN) in the peacebuilding process in Timor-Leste, looking at the differentiated presences of the UN and how it has contributed (or not) to the consolidation of the state. Adopting a critical approach regarding the UN interventionist model, it is argued that predefined models of intervention are limited in face of challenging contexts. The integration of the local dimension in peacebuilding processes, and the definition of ways of articulation between formal and informal policies and practices are fundamental. The case of Timor-Leste will serve as an illustration of the challenges faced, lessons learned and possible ways ahead.

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