



MONITORING REPORT ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NATIONAL AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE



**PHASE 1: 6 OCTOBER TO 10 NOVEMBER
VERSION: 17 NOVEMBER 2025**

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Executive Summary

Between 6 October and 10 November 2025, the DECIDE Platform monitored the first phase of the National and Inclusive Dialogue, a process designed to deepen reconciliation, strengthen democracy and promote citizen participation in Mozambique. This phase coincided with a political environment marked by post-election tensions, polarization, governance challenges and growing social demands for structural reforms and institutional transparency.

The monitoring adopted a hybrid methodology, combining direct observation in the field, media analysis and digital monitoring, allowing both institutional dynamics and public perceptions to be captured. In total, 17 consultation sessions were monitored in five provinces (Maputo, Gaza, Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula), involving approximately 721 participants.

Key Findings

• Participation and Representation

The consultation process showed varying levels of inclusion. Sofala and Zambézia showed greater openness, diversity and community participation, while Maputo and Nampula revealed greater formality and less spontaneity, especially in sessions with limited dissemination or local restrictions. Gaza maintained a stable environment, but one dominated by institutional actors.

• Local Voices and Community Insights

Communities highlighted the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts, but insisted that 'dialogue must result in concrete actions. 'Young people and students emphasized the persistence of inequalities in access to information and spaces for participation, which limits true inclusion.

• Media Narrative

Seventeen media contents were analyzed. The coverage revealed a strong presence of the topic, but with a predominance of institutional narratives. Independent media outlets showed a more critical spirit, especially regarding transparency, representativeness, and the lack of in-depth consultation with communities.

• **Digital Dynamics**

Digital monitoring identified high participation by young activists and content creators, with 214 posts and 26 videos analysed. The prevailing sentiment was critical, focusing on demands for transparency, clear reporting of results, and effective inclusion. Social media proved to be a space for protest, hope, and demands for structural change.

• **Official Communication**

Although regular, institutional communication was considered formal, not very interactive, and insufficient to respond to public concerns. There was a persistent lack of active strategies for digital engagement and outreach to communities.

• **Role of Civil Society**

One critical issue identified was the initial exclusion of civil society in the start-up phase, which limited territorial mobilization, diversity of voices and the perception of legitimacy of the process. Civil society organizations, especially youth, community and women's organizations, are key actors and their absence had a negative impact on the scope and impact of the consultations.

Conclusions

The Inclusive National Dialogue has great potential to strengthen social cohesion, promote consensus and support structural reforms. However, the process will only be effective if it ensures continuity, transparency, genuine inclusion and implementation of the contributions gathered. Public confidence depends on the ability to reconnect the process to the communities that should benefit from it, where reconciliation must be the watchword. On the other hand, we believe that the 10 thematic areas are immense, which may not allow for the desired quality of review with a view to avoiding future conflicts. The recommendations can be read in the document.

1. Context and Background

The Inclusive National Dialogue, which officially began in 2025, emerged in response to the urgent need to deepen national reconciliation, strengthen democracy and consolidate social peace in Mozambique. This process arises in a context of political and electoral tensions between October 2024 and March 2025, marked by post-election disputes, contested results, governance challenges and a highly polarized environment between different political actors. At the same time, the country faces growing demands from civil society, which is calling for greater participation in decision-making processes, the expansion of civic spaces and structural reforms that guarantee political stability and social inclusion.

The national situation is also influenced by several factors, including persistent local conflicts and political party disputes in several municipalities and provinces, weaknesses in governance and institutional transparency, growing demand for the review and modernization of electoral administration mechanisms, and public pressure for greater accountability, effective decentralization and improved service delivery. Added to these elements is a generalized mistrust of state institutions, exacerbated by the circulation of misinformation and the proliferation of polarizing narratives that intensify social and political tensions.

The Inclusive National Dialogue involves a diverse group of actors who lend legitimacy, diversity and depth to the process. Political parties play a central role, representing different ideological currents and social interests, and undertaking negotiations on sensitive reforms such as local governance, redistribution of powers and electoral processes. Organized civil society, comprising human rights organizations, youth platforms, women's movements and community networks, adds independent perspectives, technical capacity and social mobilization. Community and traditional leaders act as local mediators, reinforcing social consensus and community conflict resolution. Religious denominations contribute moral authority and promote reconciliation. The private sector introduces concerns about economic stability, the business environment and social responsibility. Academia and experts provide technical analysis and informed reform proposals, while the media ensure transparency, information flow and public scrutiny of the process.

In the first phase of the process, the *DECIDE Platform* mission was to carry out hybrid monitoring, combining direct observation in the field with media and digital analysis. The main objective of this phase was to monitor the launch of the Inclusive National Dialogue, assessing the level of involvement of political and social actors, the transparency of the process, the degree of inclusion of different segments of society, and how the dialogue is communicated to the public. The monitoring also focused on public opinion as expressed in the press, social media, and digital platforms, allowing for an assessment of citizens' level of trust, expectations, and concerns regarding the process.

This approach enabled the DECIDE Platform to produce a comprehensive reading of the Inclusive National Dialogue, articulating institutional and political dynamics with society's perceptions, thus contributing to the promotion of a more participatory, transparent and results-oriented process.

1.1. Summary Methodology

The monitoring carried out between 6 October and 10 November was conducted using a hybrid approach (face-to-face and digital), combining direct observation in the field with the analysis of public information and perceptions expressed in the digital space. The choice of this methodology is justified for several strategic, technical and operational reasons.

Firstly, the Inclusive National Dialogue is a dynamic process that takes place simultaneously in physical spaces (meetings, consultations, institutional gatherings) and in the media and digital space (news, press releases, social networks and public debates). Thus, the hybrid approach allowed the *DECIDE Platform* to capture, in an integrated manner, both the reality experienced on the ground and the narratives, reactions and perceptions of society in the online environment.

Secondly, this methodology enabled a triangulation of data sources, cross-referencing information obtained through direct observation with content disseminated by the media and citizens' positions on social media. This procedure reinforces the credibility, reliability and robustness of the results, reducing the risk of partial or biased interpretations of the process.

In addition, the hybrid approach proved to be more inclusive and comprehensive, allowing us to reach audiences who, due to geographical, logistical or social limitations, do not participate directly in face-to-face meetings, but who are actively involved in the digital space. In this way, it

was possible to integrate the voices of different segments of society, especially young people, activists, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens.

Finally, the choice of this methodology also meets operational efficiency criteria, since the combination of in-person and digital monitoring allows for the optimization of human and financial resources, ensures broader territorial coverage and guarantees continuous data collection throughout the observation period.

Thus, the hybrid methodology proved to be the most appropriate for capturing the complexity, scope and multiple dimensions of the Inclusive National Dialogue, ensuring a more complete, balanced and representative analysis of the reality observed.

a) Field Observation: Objectives and scope

One of the central objectives of this methodology was to evaluate the progress of the face-to-face consultation sessions and gather local impressions on the level of inclusion, freedom and transparency observed during the process.

Field monitoring covered the provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula, selected for their demographic relevance, socio-political diversity and regional representativeness, ensuring a balanced reading between urban and rural areas.

Data collection was carried out using the provincial observation form, the local perception form, consisting of quick interviews with participants and observers, but also through the systematic recording of field notes and contextual narratives, which made it possible to capture the atmosphere of the sessions, the participatory dynamics and community perceptions of the degree of openness, listening and transparency of the process.

As a result, 17 consultation sessions were monitored, involving a total of approximately 721 participants, including community representatives, local leaders, young people, women and institutional actors. These data served as the basis for qualitative and quantitative analysis of inclusion and local perceptions of the National and Inclusive Dialogue.

b) Media Monitoring

The second methodological component focused on media analysis, with the aim of assessing how the National and Inclusive Dialogue has been presented, framed and debated in different media outlets. Publications from national newspapers and websites were examined, as well as television

and radio debate and commentary programmes, supplemented by official statements and public speeches issued by government entities and civil society actors.

The analysis followed defined criteria of thematization, tone and diversity of sources, focusing on identifying the main topics addressed, such as reconciliation, inclusion, peace and transparency, the predominant tone and the frequency with which different voices and perspectives were represented.

In total, 17 articles and programmes published between 9 October and 10 November were analyzed. There was a higher incidence of official and institutional discourse, contrasting with the scarce presence of independent analysis and voices from local communities or civic organizations.

c) Digital Monitoring

The third methodological component focused on analyzing public perceptions and the dynamics of debate on the Inclusive National Dialogue on digital platforms. The aim of this monitoring was to understand how the topic has been discussed and appropriated by the online public, assessing the level of interest, reactions, the nature of interactions and the topics that attract the most attention in virtual communities.

For this analysis, posts, comments, and videos disseminated on networks such as Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, and public WhatsApp groups, which are currently the main channels for public debate in Mozambique, were monitored. Data collection focused on the most used hashtags during the period under review, including National Dialogue, Inclusive, Mozambique, Peace, and Youth, as well as spontaneous variations created by users.

The monitoring followed specific criteria related to the volume of publications, frequency of interaction, reach, prevailing sentiment (support, criticism, mistrust, hope), as well as the identification of opinion leaders, influential profiles, and pages with the highest engagement. The team also analyzed the dissemination of visual content, live broadcasts and real-time debates, which gained prominence mainly on TikTok and Facebook, due to the strong support of young people.

During the period from 6 October to 10 November, 214 posts, 26 videos and hundreds of comments were analyzed. The results indicate that public sentiment was mostly critical, with concerns about

transparency, lack of feedback on decisions to the population, and doubts about the true inclusion of different social groups.

The digital environment also revealed important patterns:

Firstly, there was a predominance of content produced by young activists, community bloggers and independent journalists, who drove debates and denounced alleged flaws in the process. In contrast, the institutional presence was considered limited and reactive, often confined to the dissemination of formal information, without direct interaction with criticism or requests for clarification.

Secondly, there was a strong circulation of short videos on TikTok, where young people questioned the practical usefulness of dialogue if there was no feedback on the contributions made during the consultations. Many of the videos with the most interaction contained calls for greater transparency and accountability.

Thirdly, public WhatsApp groups proved to be sensitive spaces, where messages reflecting both frustration and hope circulated. In several community groups, audio messages denouncing the exclusion of young people from peripheral areas were shared, along with comments asking for the dialogue to also reach rural areas and more remote districts.

Overall, the sentiment was considered mixed, combining hope for change with structural scepticism. The most recurrent expectation among digital users is that the dialogue should be ‘serious, inclusive and consistent,’ accompanied by clear feedback of the results to the communities. Thus, despite criticism, social networks have demonstrated their recognition of the value of the process as a mechanism for public listening.

This digital monitoring allows us to conclude that the issue generates strong mobilization among young people, who position themselves as central actors in public debate, demanding greater transparency, effective participation and improvements in the democratic process.

d) National Consolidation and Validation

The national consolidation stage consisted of cross-referencing and integrating different sources of information, field observations, media analysis and digital monitoring, with the aim of producing a comprehensive, coherent and reliable overview of the progress of the National and Inclusive Dialogue. The process involved systematizing provincial files and field data,

categorizing media and digital publications in analysis spreadsheets, identifying convergent and divergent patterns and, finally, drafting a national analytical summary. Validation was ensured through triangulation between in-person observations and public discourse, complemented by an internal review conducted by the DECIDE Platform team and its provincial partners, ensuring consistency and credibility in the conclusions.

2. Field Observations

2.1. Coverage and Representation

During the observation period, 17 face-to-face consultation sessions were held across five provinces (Maputo, Gaza, Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula), involving a total of approximately 721 participants.

In Maputo, four sessions were held, with around 115 participants. These were well organized, but the atmosphere was predominantly formal, with little spontaneity among the participants.

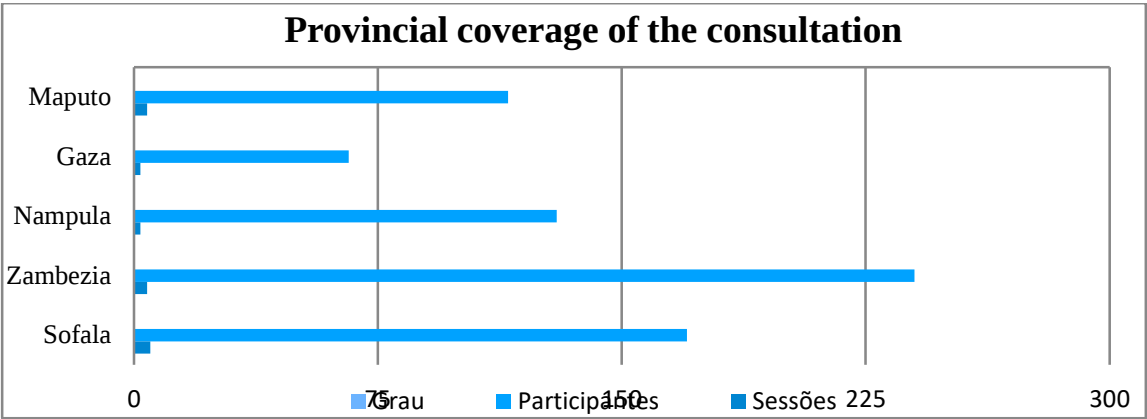
In Sofala, there were five sessions with approximately 170 participants, notable for the higher degree of community inclusion, strong participation by women and young people, and an atmosphere of open and constructive dialogue.

In Zambézia, four sessions of the process were held, involving a total of 240 participants and characterized by the diverse participation of local actors, reflecting a positive and representative environment in the different activities. However, there was a lack of dissemination through community radio stations, which limited the reach of information to the communities. There was also a lack of openness on the part of certain district governments in facilitating the process and providing relevant information, which limited the collection of more comprehensive data during the sessions.

In Nampula, two sessions were held, bringing together around 130 participants. The first, held at the UniRovuma Cultural Centre, saw strong mass participation, with the presence of political parties, university students, teachers, independent young people and community-based organizations. The second, held in the community of Mutauanha, took place with some restrictions and saw low participation, resulting in reduced attendance by these groups.

Finally, in Gaza, with two sessions and 66 participants, there was an institutionalized and participatory atmosphere, although dominated by local figures and with less representation from independent civic groups.

Overall, the monitoring revealed different levels of inclusion and freedom of expression, with Sofala and Zambézia being the provinces with the best participatory performance, while Nampula and Maputo showed a more moderate performance marked by formalism.



Graph 1: Provincial Coverage of Auscultation

2.2. Local Voices and Perspectives

Valuing local voices and perceptions means recognizing that each community has its own knowledge, which is often invisible in formal discussions but essential for understanding reality in its entirety. These perceptions make it possible to identify specific needs and contribute to the development of more effective solutions to various problems. Therefore, due to their high relevance, examples of some of the local voices and perceptions that have been heard are provided below.

Examples:

- 1) “They said that the best way to resolve or minimize conflicts in the country is through dialogue.” - António Alberto, Beira-Chaimite, 22 September 2025.

- 2) *“Change the minimum age to run for President of the Republic of Mozambique, so that young people feel fully included in this process, with the age being 30 years old.”* – Amélia João, Maputo- Av. 25 de Setembro, 23 October 2025.

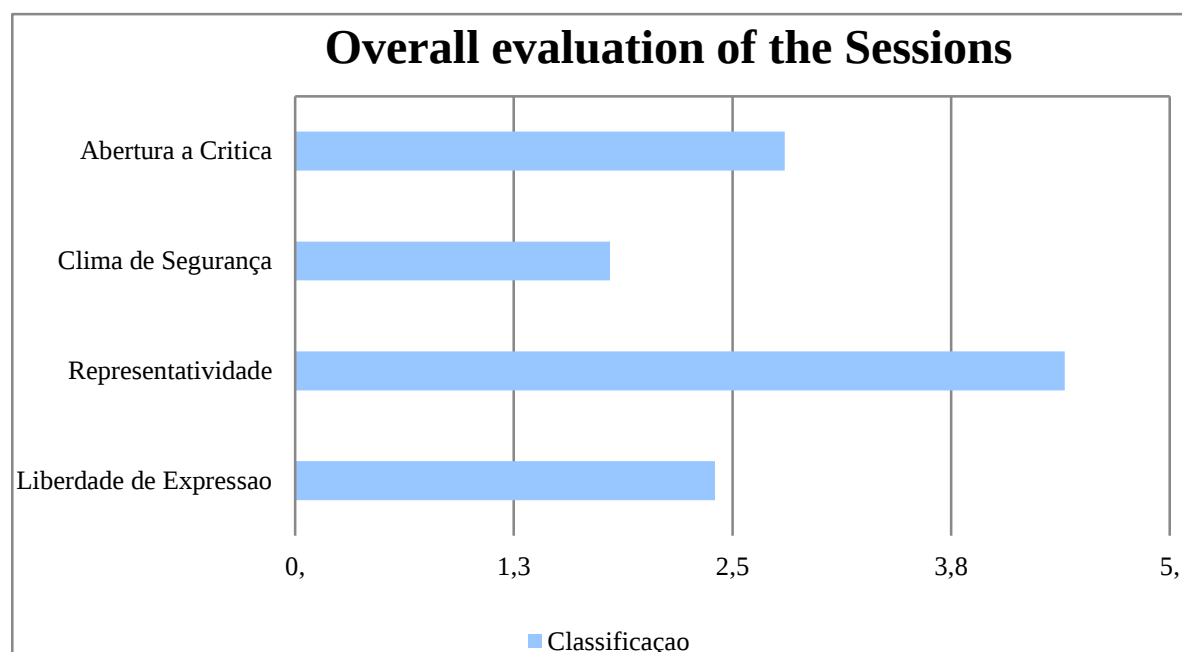
The dialogue appears to be inclusive, but university students pointed out that in practice many voices, especially those from vulnerable groups, continue to go unheard due to limited dissemination of information and unequal access to spaces for participation.

“It is not enough to engage in dialogue; we must take action and implement the contributions made by the population.” UEM student

2.3. Overall assessment of the sessions

Criterion	Classification	Observations
Freedom of expression	Medium	Some openness was observed, although participants still showed signs of fear; there is room for improvement.
Representativeness	Medium	The diversity of actors present was moderate; the inclusion of vulnerable groups still needs strengthening.
Security environment	Stable	Generally safe environment, despite occasional situations that created a perception of instability.
Openness to criticism	Present	Participants demonstrated good willingness to express criticism and suggestions openly.

The data below illustrates the participants' overall perception of the main criteria for evaluating the sessions.



Graph 2: Level of inclusion and freedom in sessions

3. Media Narrative

The media monitoring component aimed to analyze how the National and Inclusive Dialogue has been narrated and framed by the media, assessing the consistency of messages, the balance of sources and the degree of diversity in coverage.

In general, there was a strong presence of the topic in the media, but with different approaches between state and independent outlets. Recurring themes in news and reports focused on national reconciliation, the political legitimacy of the process, social and regional inclusion, as well as the tensions and partisan differences that emerged during the consultation phases.

The predominant tone of the publications analyzed was mostly neutral in official sources, with formal language, protocol coverage and emphasis on interventions by institutional figures. In the

independent media, however, there was a more critical and interpretative stance, raising concerns about transparency, representativeness and concrete results of public consultations.

Despite the regular presence of the topic, there was a lack of investigative reporting exploring the methodology of the consultations or their real impact on communities. Most of the articles were limited to reproducing official statements and speeches, without any field monitoring or consultation with local voices.

Media coverage tends to reproduce official statements, with little reference to independent voices. Only two of the seventeen articles analyzed addressed concerns about the transparency of the consultation process.

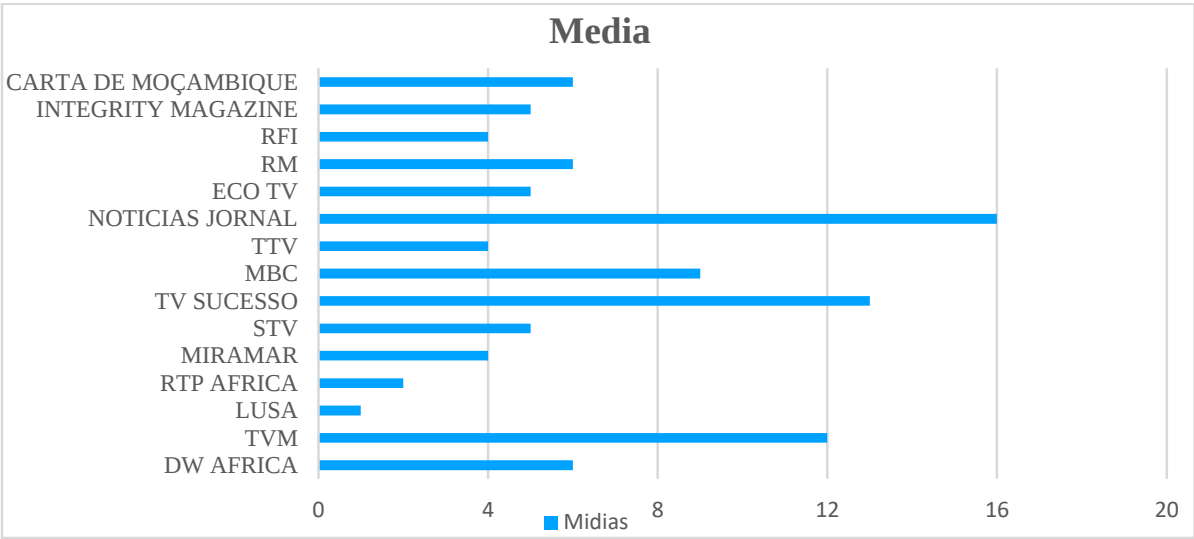


Chart 3: Level of Media Presence

4. Dynamics in Social Networks

The digital analysis sought to understand the prevailing perceptions and trends in the debate on the National and Inclusive Dialogue on the main online platforms, identifying patterns of engagement, public sentiment and the most recurring themes.

On social media, there was a significant volume of interactions around the hashtags National Dialogue, Inclusive, Peace, Youth and Reconciliation, which stood out as markers of the most relevant discussions. The predominant content was critical (45%), followed by neutral (30%) and

mobilising (25%) posts, often promoted by young activists, journalists and civil society organisations.

The general sentiment captured on the platforms revealed a combination of scepticism and desire for change, translating into a mixed perception: on the one hand, recognition of the importance of dialogue as a mechanism for reconciliation; on the other, mistrust regarding transparency, inclusion and the return of results to the population.

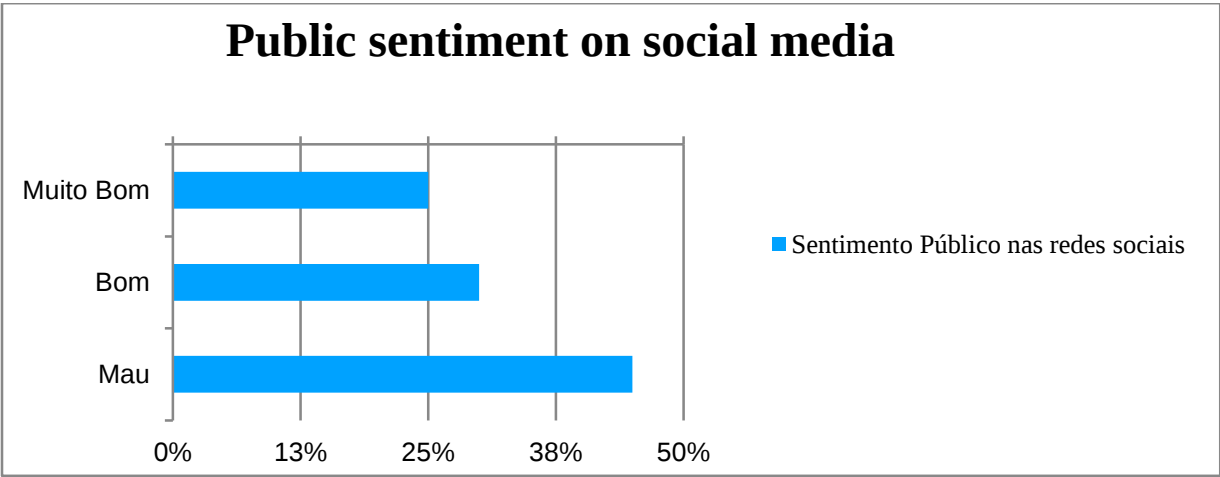


Chart 4: Distribution of public sentiment on social media (Very good / Good / Bad)

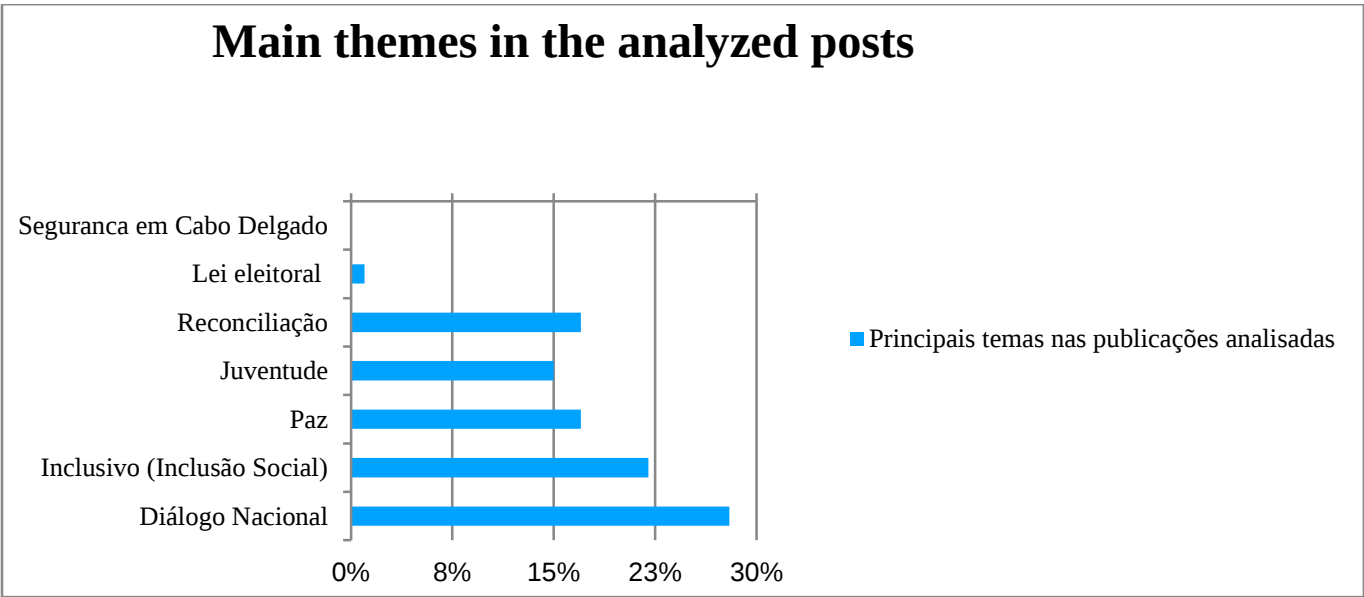


Chart 5: Main topics in the publications analyzed

Digital discussions reveal a mixture of frustration and desire for change. Phrases such as ‘They speak for us, but they don’t listen to us’ were repeated on various platforms, signalling a lack of institutional trust.

Overall, social media is a space for expression and protest, where citizen discourse and critical questioning predominate, contrasting with the more formal and controlled tone of institutional communication. This scenario reinforces the need for institutions to have a more active presence on digital platforms, with clear messages, accessible language and direct interaction with the public, in order to bridge gaps and rebuild trust.

5. Official Communication

The monitoring of official communications assessed the volume, consistency and nature of institutional publications during the period analyzed. A higher frequency of communications was observed in the first and last weeks of the process. The publications emphasized announcements of sessions, messages of peace and reconciliation, as well as formal summaries of activities. Despite their regular presence, the tone remained predominantly formal and not very interactive, with limited response to concerns raised by the online public. The main topics addressed were reconciliation, community development, social inclusion and participatory democracy. There was a clear need for a more dynamic, transparent and dialogue-oriented communication strategy.

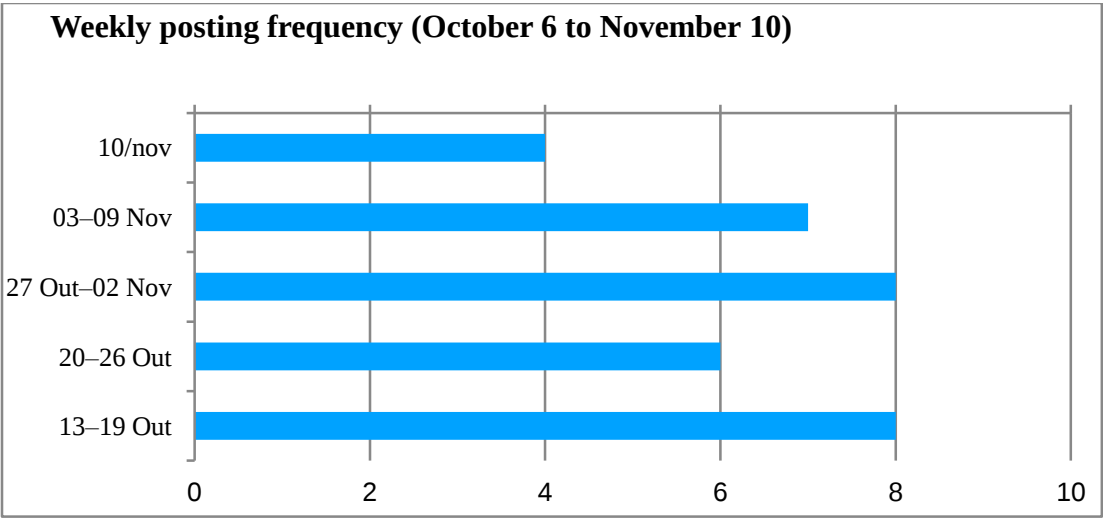


Chart 6: Frequency of official publications per week

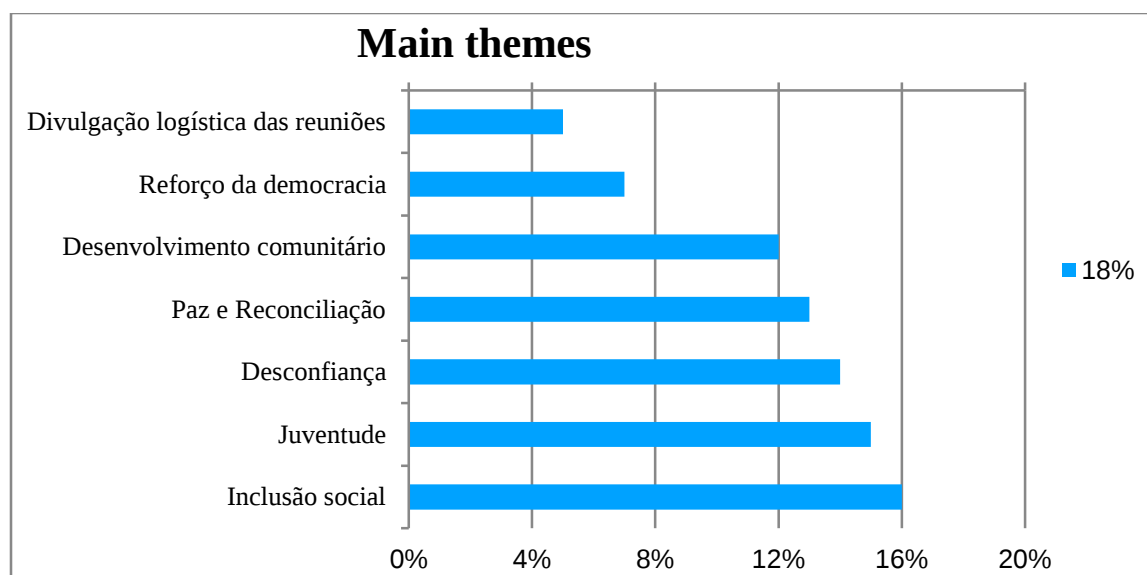


Chart 7: Relative percentage of main topics

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Inclusive National Dialogue represents a fundamental opportunity to strengthen social cohesion and promote sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the country. By bringing together different segments of society, from community leaders, civil society organizations, political parties, youth, the private sector and traditionally marginalized groups, the dialogue creates a legitimate space for the collective construction of proposals and consensus. The inclusive nature of this process contributes not only to social pacification, but also to strengthening trust between citizens and state institutions.

However, the effectiveness of the Inclusive National Dialogue depends on continuity, transparency and the real commitment of the parties involved to transform the contributions collected into concrete actions.

A critical point identified during the monitoring process concerns the failure to include civil society from the outset, which resulted in a visible distancing of this group. The initial absence of civic organizations, youth movements, women's networks, activists and community structures with a strong voice among the population reduced the capacity for local mobilization and limited the scope of the consultations in several provinces. This initial distancing had direct implications for

participation, the diversity of voices present, and public perception of the process, as the main social drivers traditionally responsible for bringing communities closer to consultation processes felt that they were not called upon to intervene in the decisive start-up phase.

Currently, it is clear that the actors who guarantee social legitimacy, territorial mobilization, and community mediation capacity are precisely those who are lacking. Without their structured participation from the outset, part of society felt excluded or underrepresented, reinforcing scepticism and reducing the sense of belonging to the process. This scenario highlights the urgent need to ensure that, in the next phases, civil society is fully, strategically and transparently involved, contributing to broadening the territorial reach, deepening inclusion and strengthening the legitimacy of the Inclusive National Dialogue.

Recommendations:

1. Integrate the conclusions of the Dialogue into public policies. The decisions and proposals resulting from the Inclusive National Dialogue should be incorporated into government plans and accompanied by clear impact indicators.
2. Mobilize adequate resources. Provide stable funding to ensure that the dialogue is continuous, comprehensive and accessible, including logistics, facilitation and documentation.
3. Promote training and civic education, invest in training programmes for community leaders and citizens on dialogue, mediation and peaceful conflict resolution.
4. Inclusion through direct invitations to youth organizations, informal organizations, organizations for people with disabilities and other organizations.
5. More realistic communication through community radio stations and advertising spaces.
6. Extend the public consultation period, which was due to end on 15 December for the submission of contributions, until at least the end of January to allow for greater participation by organizations. There could also be a direct call to these organizations to participate.

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