

Welcome statement by RDTL Minister of Finance Emilia Pires to the 2013 Timor-Leste and Development Partners Meeting

19 June 2013

Your Excellency President of the Republic,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Excellencies, Honoured guests, Partners
Welcome to the 2013 TLDPM.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Timor-Leste's newest United Nations Advisor on Development appointed by His Excellency Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations. We welcome her as Timor-Leste turns a new corner in its development trajectory.

This meeting should be considered a major milestone in our modern development journey together. That journey in fact began here in this very building. It began simply as a collection of the willing... and this year, miraculously, reached global billing.

From OUR successes and failures, challenges and wins, triumphs and trials we, together, contributed to a new trajectory for sustainable development, not only for our own country, for our own People, but for international policy at the highest global level.

I was humbled the moment the High level Panel for the Post 2015 agenda finalized the recommendations and findings for his Excellency Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations. Every word in it I believe was inspired by our road together here, and every concept, driven partially by the lessons learned from our shared experiences.

It was the moment our work together in Timor-Leste from Leadership, the Government, the National Parliament, our Diplomatic Corps, our Civil Society, our Academia, our Media, our People, with our partners in development - every Donor Organization, NGO, Think Tank - it was the moment our work to date was validated.

In 2010 we met here for the TLDPM, in tandem with the first meeting of the g7+, and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

We decided **country owned and country led plans** would be put at the forefront of all development in fragile and conflicted affected States. We decided global reforms to reflect this would be driven **BY us**, the developing, **FOR us...** to develop - with support from our partners.

The g7+ grew and through this forum the New Deal was born. This was the first time in history we, those countries that face the unique social and economic hardships of fragility and

conflict, had our own architecture to move from fragility to resilience. We had identified our roadmap. FOCUS and TRUST became not only our core values but the acronyms that now guide our every action.

The priorities we set for ourselves in inclusivity, safety, justice, resource and revenue management and economic foundations were evaluated through fragility assessments which allowed us to not only design but defend our one vision, our one plan - in Timor-Leste it is our **Strategic Development Plan**. The SDP now guides all our activities.

We lobbied for the concepts of The New Deal to be considered as part of the wider global architecture for the post 2015 agenda, because we as a community were unrelenting in our belief that, the inclusion of these values in the next MDG life span, **will ensure no one is left behind**.

Now we must take the talk adopt.... and run with our walk. That means we must operationalize, implement and measure the results - we must be flexible, innovative but disciplined. We must now LIVE the 6 P's -

PROPER PRIOR PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE!

We in Timor-Leste have used a triangulated matrix linking the New Deal, MDG to the Strategic Development Plan. This means we have objectives, we have priorities and we have mechanisms to implement and measure them.

But most importantly we have the **national will** to meet our national Goal. To become an upper middle income country by the year 2030 with a healthy, educated and prospering population living in a strong diversified economy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my Prime Minister who has been the unwavering driver in this journey. It was he, who told us always in our struggle to restore Independence - To Resist is to Win, and now that we have gained our Independence, he reminds us daily, **TO PERSIST IS TO WIN**.

Thank you.