



DRAFT Welcoming Remarks
by **H.E. Santana JRF Viegas Cardoso, Minister of Finance**
On the Occasion of the 2016 TLDPM
Dili Convention Centre, 4 July 2016

H.E.Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Fellow Government Colleagues,
Excellencies, Ambassadors, Head of Agencies, Development Partners,
Private Sector and Civil Society Representatives
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As Co-Chair of the 2016 TLDPM, I would like to take this opportunity to **welcome you all**, as Timor-Leste turns a new chapter in its development journey.

The theme of this year’s meeting: *Financing for Sustainable Development in Timor-Leste* – is particularly suitable and timely.

Timor-Leste has entered a new development phase. Focused this year on developing our country’s infrastructure and human capital, the 2016 State Budget is one key-enabling tool to support our Statebuilding agenda. Today, the situation in Timor-Leste speaks for itself.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Ministry of Finance has embarked on a series of **reforms** within its mandate, from **economic to fiscal system** to support the four reforms promoted by the Sixth Constitutional Government. These reforms are aimed at strengthening domestic resources mobilization, less dependency on oil resources to ensure sustainable development in the future. The main target of fiscal reform is to increase domestic revenue to 15 % of non-oil GD by 2020.

The TLDPM is an annual event where we come together to reflect previous development success, and challenges and reaffirm the commitment to future strategic direction of development in Timor-Leste. This year will serve as an avenue for us **to review progress on legislative and judiciary, public administration, economic and fiscal reforms.**

The fact is that financing for sustainable development will require resources from diverse sources for investment. **It is in this context that I call upon our Development partners, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations to coordinate and harmonize our actions and resources to finance for sustainable development in Timor-Leste and help sustaining of peace through the better delivery of public services.**

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is encouraging to see the Government of Timor-Leste has adopted the Agenda 2030 to be implemented this year for the next 15 years. This work requires not only strong partnership from all stakeholders under Goal 17 (*global partnership and means of implementation*) within the SDGs, but also the means of mobilising financial resources to implement it.

Our Prime Minister, Dr. Rui Maria Araújo will officially launch the SDGs (*in his keynote address shortly*) symbolizing the initial implementation of sustainable development in Timor-Leste in synergy with the SDP. As we all know, the SDP provides a policy framework that will contribute to the ability of Timor-Leste's development partners to increase the predictability of the resources they provide, which is essential, if external assistance is complementary to domestic investments in the Timor-Leste's future development.

And we have the good fortune of having developed **strong partnerships and friendships and working relations with all of you, our development partners in Timor-Leste**. That cooperation and the common experience are particularly valuable to us. I believe we have reason to look to the future with optimism.

However, within the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, I urge our development partners to:

- continue support the long-term approaches towards sustainable development in Timor-Leste by strengthening the use of country systems.
- provide timely and predictable aid in line with the New Deal Principles; and
- mobilise resources to support the Government's Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

Ladies and Gentlemen....

Over the next day and a half, we (the Government, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector) will have a chance to discuss progress, challenges and identify ways forward to implement the SDP and Sustainable Development.

Now we must take the talkadoptand run with our walk.

That means we must operationalize, implement and measure the results, **we must be flexible, innovative but disciplined**. This will depend heavily on our collective wisdom, local leadership and strong partnership with all stakeholders to deliver the best results for the people of Timor-Leste.

With this note, joining my fellow Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, a very **warm welcome** to you and enjoy your deliberations.

Thank You !