



**PRIME  
MINISTER**

**ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO  
AT THE RECEPTION FOR THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Díli  
15 August 2012



Palácio do Governo,  
Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato,  
Díli, Timor-Leste

United Nations Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Director General of UNESCO, Her Excellency Irina Bokova  
UN Special Envoy for Education, The Right Honourable Gordon Brown  
Executive Secretary, ESCAP, Her Excellency Noeleen Heyzer  
Assistant Secretary General, DPKO, His Excellency Dmitry Titov  
Acting SRSG, UNMIT, His Excellency Finn Reske-Nielsen  
Goodwill Ambassador for Education and President of the Timor-Leste National  
UNESCO Commission, Her Excellency Kirsty Sword-Gusmão  
Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of Timor-Leste to the United Nations, Her  
Excellency Sofia Borges  
UNPOL Commissioner, Luis Carrilho

Members of Government  
Members of the visiting UN delegation  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome back to Timor-Leste the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon.

His Excellency is a Na'i ulun boot ida – a great man - with a vision of global peace and development – a vision shared by the people of Timor-Leste.

His visit represents a new stage in our nation's progress, with the departure of UNMIT at the end of the year, and as we move to implementing a long term plan for our nation.

The United Nations has been with us since the birth of our nation and our people give thanks for the contribution it has made to our development.

Your Excellency, it has been five years since your last visit to our country and I trust that you have witnessed the great progress we have achieved together.

Gone are the IDP camps, the stagnant economy and the security concerns.

Over the last five years we have enjoyed the restoration of peace and security and double digit average economic growth rates.

And we have made significant progress towards meeting the MDGs.

And now, having successfully completed the first stage of peace building, we look with confidence to a new stage of State building with long term planning.

And so, we now have a 20 year plan for our nation, the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan, which this new Government will work to implement.

This plan will guide Timor-Leste towards becoming an upper middle income country with a healthy, well educated and safe population by 2030.

Our vision is achievable because of the foundations we have built together.

With UNMIT's Mission finishing at the end of the year, the President of the Republic has established a Task Force to discuss the UN's role after 2012.

The Government will also engage with UNMIT, and the SRSG Finn Reske-Nielsen, to look at a new frame of cooperation in which the UN can provide targeted assistance to meet the needs of our people and our country.

Actually, my Government will only be an effective Government after approval of our five year Program that we are now busy preparing to submit to the National Parliament as soon as possible.

Your Excellency,

You have one of the most difficult jobs imaginable.

The world is going through a period of rapid change and you must help navigate this change for the betterment of humankind.

Regrettably, the world faces many problems.

It is proving difficult to consolidate the gains of the Arab Spring. And in Syria, we see a terrible internal conflict that is eluding international peace efforts.

In our region, we face ongoing instability on the Korean Peninsula and a range of disputed territorial claims, including in the South China Sea.

Inequality continues to rise across the globe, with a wealthy elite with vested interests coming to dominate world affairs. This trend may lead to widespread social problems and the rise of new global political narratives.

At the same time as we are witnessing this rising inequality, the world economy is struggling as it seeks to come to terms with the sovereign debt crisis and the unethical behaviour of the global financial industry.

And we must also grapple with the threats to the environment - including climate change - and how we can accommodate the legitimate demands of emerging, and developing nations, for finite natural resources.

We hope that the world can overcome these challenges.

It will also be necessary to accommodate the spectacular rise of China.

In 1980 China's share of the global economy was close to 2%, but this decade we will see China becoming the largest economy on earth.

And we are also witnessing the rise of India, Indonesia and Vietnam, and are encouraged by the progress in Myanmar.

With these changes, along with the strength of Japan and South Korea, global economic, military and political power is shifting to our region of East Asia.

This shift has profound implications for Timor-Leste's future, especially for our petroleum and tourism industries which are destined to grow as a result.

Timor-Leste looks to be part of the Asian growth story and will continue to work for full membership of ASEAN and continued integration in our region.

Your Excellency,

We wish you well in steering the world towards peace and a better future.

We will help where we can. Timor-Leste has benefited from the international community's support and we want to be able to give something back.

And so today, I announce that Timor-Leste will donate \$100,000 to the United Nations Civilian Capacity program, CAPMATCH.

Timor-Leste will also be willing to contribute to CAPMATCH through the provision of expertise in natural resources, financial management and elections.

This contribution is consistent with our Government's focus on improving human resources to build resilience and institutional capacity development.

We are also looking to give something back through chairing the g7+.

The g7+ is working to improve aid effectiveness and international understanding of the real needs of fragile and conflict affected countries.

We are grateful for your commitment to supporting the New Deal, which provides for new relationships between fragile nations and their partners.

The g7+ and its agenda have particular relevance as the world looks to establish a single global framework with sustainable development at its core, as envisioned in the Rio+20 outcome, 'The Future We Want.'

I would also like to thank you for appointing our Finance Minister, Emilia Pires, to a High-level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015. We are proud that one of our own is able to contribute in this way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for coming today to honour the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, and to celebrate his visit.

And I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Right Honourable Gordon Brown, recently appointed as the UN Special Envoy for Education. Congratulations and welcome to Timor-Leste.

Excellency Secretary-General, you will return tomorrow to New York where you will continue to work with the nations of the world to build a better future.

We have confidence in your leadership, judgement and vision and we wish you well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I now ask you all to stand for a toast:

"The Secretary-General and the United Nations Family"

Obrigadu barak!