



PRIME
MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE AT THE g7+ FRAGILITY ASSESSMENT
WORKSHOP**

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

Secretary-General of the United Nations
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, and to say a few brief words at this g7+ Fragility Assessment Workshop.

We are honoured to have the Secretary-General attend this g7+ meeting and visit our country again.

With all the important responsibilities of the Secretary-General, he has proved to be a true champion of developing and fragile nations.

We are truly thankful for his personal support – and the support of the United Nations – for Timor-Leste and for the g7+.

In April 2010, the g7+ was born in Dili in the lead up to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding hosted by Timor-Leste.

The g7+ formed because we recognised that many fragile States face common issues, and have common concerns, about development assistance - but there was no mechanism to discuss these matters independently of donors and development agencies.

There was also a shared recognition that international responses in the world's poorest and most fragile countries were often inadequate and inappropriate.

In 2010 we came together as brothers and sisters from around the world, in a spirit of solidarity and friendship, with a shared desire to improve the lives of our people.

As an international group that now consists of 17 nations, we want to use our 'voice' in a sophisticated and credible manner to influence the global dialogue on development.

This is why we are pursuing the New Deal.

The New Deal seeks to make sure international development assistance is country owned, and country led, and meets the real needs of our people.

Timor-Leste has lived the philosophy of the New Deal.

At first, we established yearly national priorities to give us the flexibility to address our immediate problems.

Once we had secured stability, we developed a long term plan for our nation, the Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.

That Plan reflects the aspirations of the Timorese people to create a prosperous and strong nation and sets out a pathway to achieve this vision.

Despite all the challenges we faced after our long struggle for independence – having to rebuild our nation's soul, and rebuild our national infrastructure – we have just completed our third round of peaceful democratic elections.

I am proud to say we have moved from conflict and fragility, to peace and stability.

While we still face many hurdles, I am optimistic about our future.

I am also proud that Timor-Leste is now in a position to give something back.

That is why at the Official Lunch today I announced that Timor-Leste will donate \$100,000 to the United Nations Civilian Capacity program, CAPMATCH.

It is also why we are dedicated to leading the g7+ and working with other conflict affected nations on the pathway from fragility to resilience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The g7+ also hopes to be part of the dialogue to establish globally agreed goals to fight poverty beyond 2015, when the Millennium Development Goals come to an end.

Once again Secretary-General, many thanks for appointing our Finance Minister, Emilia Pires, to the High-level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

There is already discussion about broadening the goals of the new global development agenda.

However, we ask that it is remembered that while developing countries have made substantial progress - not one low-income fragile or conflict affected country has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal.

With one and a half billion people living in areas affected by fragility, organised crime or conflict, addressing insecurity and fragility remains the world's primary development challenge.

We need to learn from the MDG process, to study what worked and what didn't.

What we do know already is that the new global agenda must address global fragility and build the social foundation necessary to address the basic needs of humanity.

We need the whole world working together - governments, civil society, universities, the private sector, trade unions - to ensure humankind has a sustainable future.

Secretary-General,

Thank you again for visiting our nation and for your support to the g7+.

Your presence inspires us to work harder, and to think creatively of new approaches and possibilities for our nation, and the members of the g7+.

Thank you very much.