



PRIME
MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE g7+ HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

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

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking at this high level participation, I must say that today marks an important step for the 'g7+' New Deal.

Since its first meeting in Dili, in early 2010, the 'g7+' has grown to become an influential advocate for the people of fragile and conflict-affected countries.

The 'g7+' was established because we recognised that fragile States require tailored policy responses that address the reality of our situations.

The 'g7+' also provided an opportunity for fragile nations to meet, independently of our development partners, and to have a collective voice in the global development dialogue.

We all know - everyone in this room knows - that one and a half billion people live in areas affected by fragility, organised crime or conflict.

This is why, addressing insecurity and fragility, should be the primary development challenge for the Least Developed Countries.

At the great hall of the General-Assembly, listening to all the distinguished speakers, from yesterday to this morning, we can say, this is the real problem of today's world.

We know we cannot address this challenge alone. While fragile nations can learn from, and support each other – we also need help. But I remind you all of this profound thought from South Sudan, the youngest post-conflict country:

'NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US'

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is why we are pursuing the New Deal.

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

As everyone knows, Timor-Leste is located between two big neighbours. We are pleased to have here the Honorable Julia Gillard. I have to thank Australia for pushing Timor-Leste to this process, by encouraging us to participate in the Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness in 2008.

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

When we were very fragile, we began with short term priorities, to give us flexibility to address our urgent problems.

Our focus was on peace building.

Once we secured peace and stability, we could already develop a long term plan, our *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*. And now, we are at the implementation stage.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a new nation, as a post-conflict country that fought against Indonesia, our progress would not have been possible without our reconciliation, cooperation and deep friendship with Jakarta.

And for this, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of one of the world's great statesmen, His Excellency, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

And I have to remind you, it was not only with Indonesia, because the post-conflict situation was visible within our own society. Therefore, ours was not an easy path and we met many challenges along the way. But we succeeded, through dialogue and a community rooted reconciliation process!

We are making progress and celebrated our ten year anniversary of independence in May this year.

While we have achieved stability, there are still risks ahead.

We know that we are not fragile because we are poor; we are fragile because our institutions are weak. And so, we must continue to build our State.

And while our stability has encouraged strong economic growth, we now have to ensure that our prosperity is shared.

Rising inequality is an emerging risk for social division, and so it is critical that we improve the lives of all the people across our country.

We have to work to eradicate poverty, and to create jobs, particularly in the rural areas.

Like many 'g7+' nations, we are rich in natural resources and know that this provides a solid foundation to build our future.

We made sure that we carefully manage the income from our petroleum resources, so we could start building schools and hospitals and other essential infrastructure, while saving most of the revenue for future generations.

Timor-Leste was the third nation in the world to be fully compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I finish, I would like to urge the g7+ to be a part of the global dialogue, to set goals to fight poverty beyond 2015, when the MDGs come to an end.

And we must remember 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.

The new global goals will help define how people approach development. They will shape views as to what development looks like.

And in this dialogue, we need to be wary of grand narratives, which seek to provide a one size fits all solution, but do not respond to the needs or reality of fragile nations.

That is why the new global agenda must address fragility and security.

It must recognise that peace, and a legitimate and strong State, are needed before sustainable steps can be taken to eradicate poverty. And, from stability, by strengthening the rule of law, good governance, reconciliation and social harmony, the national Leaders, together with their people, can improve the lives of the population and march towards a sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to see such strong support for the 'g7+'.

It gives us hope that by working together, all nations can achieve the common goals. As I said last night in the General Assembly, human dignity must be at the core of decisions on problems affecting our planet. We must have an overall sense of humankind existence, the aspirations and fears, the dreams and suffering, the will and despair, all the drama in the fight for survival of women and men around the world .

Thank you very much.