



PRIME
MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO AT THE CLOSING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA**

**28 February 2013
Dili, Timor-Leste**

Excellencies
Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with mixed feelings that I speak to you to formally close this international conference on the post 2015 development agenda.

We should be proud of what we have achieved over the last few days, while at the same time, we face a great responsibility.

Dear friends, we have achieved so much – your contributions have made the consultation process a success. We have been writing our own history and mapping our own future.

And we have achieved something truly unique.

For the first time, we, fragile States have come together to be a part of the process of setting the global development framework in an equitable, sustainable and fair way.

As a result of our discussions and deliberations we have formulated the Dili Consensus – an historic document that sets out our priorities, and our hopes, for the post 2015 development agenda. This is a document that reflects the views of the G7 + nations, the PALOP nations, and our Pacific neighbours.

Never before have our voices been so strong.

Ladies and Gentleman, the Dili Consensus reflects the outcomes of the working sessions we held yesterday, and the many discussions we have held on the conference floor.

It is the result of open hearted discussion – between brothers and sisters.

Discussions that were honest. Discussions that disguised no hidden agendas.

Discussions led by nations that have experienced dramatic situations - conflict, instability, poverty and, in some cases, nations that are threatened with environmental devastation by the accelerating effects of climate change.

Discussions in which we were not ashamed to share our weaknesses, and our fears, and our hopes for the future.

In particular, I would like to recall the words of the representative of the youngest country here with us, the Deputy Minister of Finance from South Sudan, Her Excellency. Mary Awaj Jervase Yak, summarised the difficult challenges we have in front of us, but then declared that they are not impossible – she said that it can be done.

And I also believe that we can do it.

The first step is the recognition that we should, and that we can, be the agents of our own change – that we can take a path away from conflict and poverty to peace and prosperity.

We also have to acknowledge our own problems. We need to understand and appreciate our own reality, our weaknesses and our potential.

As everybody heard, the Minister for Planning from Guinea, His Excellency Sekou Traore, said we Guineans are rich, so I cannot imagine why I am coming to a conference to talk about poverty in my country.

And so, we have to find solutions - our own solutions. We must set out a credible, responsible and realistic pathway to development.

And once we have found our own solutions, we can share them with our development partners so they can work with us to achieve our goals.

We have to do this, because there is no getting away from the fact that we are the ones who suffer if we get it wrong, just as we will be the main beneficiaries when we get it right.

We learnt this lesson the hard way when our voices were not heard when the Millennium Development Goals were formulated in New York in 2000.

We know the MDGs were without a doubt an exercise of goodwill from the developed countries to the Least Developed Countries, but they were flawed and left nearly a fifth of world's population behind.

Together we have the opportunity to make sure that the post 2015 development agenda is driven not just by goodwill, but by reality – our reality.

Together, we must change the paradigm so that never again will one and half billion people be left behind.

The standardised approach adopted in New York in 2000 failed to notice that the challenges we face in the remote mountains of Timor-Leste for example, are not the same as those faced by families struggling to survive a drought in Somalia, or living in a world that is slowly sinking into the vastness of the ocean, like Kiribati.

The MDGs also lacked a focus on implementation and appropriate systems of governance.

Next time we must properly recognise, and take into account, the vitally important role women play in development, and we must tackle violence against women.

Next time we have to focus not just on goals and targets - but on ways to ensure the implementation of our goals and targets.

Next time we must ensure that the threat climate change poses to some of the world's most vulnerable people is addressed – one way or another post 2015.

We must not forget the crucial role of the private sector in driving development and creating jobs for our people.

Importantly, it must be recognised that development cannot be achieved when countries are fragile – we must address fragility directly.

And so, we also need more local ownership, and more involvement by civil society – we must make sure there is not only “development for all”, but “development by all”.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a remarkable meeting in the history of the development of fragile states.

Now, instead of our fate being discussed in global decision-making centres, we have met in Dili - and before that we have met in Freetown, in Juba and in Port au Prince.

I want to sincerely thank all of you for coming to Dili and for sharing your concerns and your dreams.

I want to thank all our friends in the g7 +, many of whom have travelled great distances to be here.

Quero ainda saudar a presença dos Ministros e altos dignitários dos países irmãos e amigos dos PALOP neste encontro. Os nossos laços de amizade e solidariedade vem de longa data e, portanto, não faria sentido falarmos de desenvolvimento colectivo sem vos termos ao nosso lado¹.

And thank you to our friends and neighbours from the Pacific Islands, in particular his Excellency, Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati and his Excellency, Gordon Darcy Lilo, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands. We are all grateful to the Australian Government and the Pacific Institute of Public Policy for facilitating the Pacific Island delegations.

I want to thank Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Special Envoy of H.E. President of the Republic of Indonesia for his insightful contribution yesterday.

¹ I would also like to welcome the presence of the Ministers and esteemed dignitaries from the family of our PALOP countries at this meeting. Our ties of friendship and solidarity go back a long way and, therefore, it would not make sense to speak of collective development without having you by our side.

I would also like to thank all the people who worked so hard to organise this successful conference.

Finally there are two remarkable women to whom we all owe a vote of thanks. Her Excellency, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and Her Excellency, Ms Emilia Pires, Member of the High Level Panel and the Finance Minister of Timor-Leste. It was their combined drive and passion that brought us all together.

It is has been an honour and a privilege for the people of Timor-Leste to host this conference. We know our challenges are great but we also know, that together we can find the answers.

Together we will grow.

28 February 2013
Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao