



PRIMEIRO MINISTRO

**SPEECH OF
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE ON THE THEME “INVESTIGATION, EDUCATION,
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY OF
PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE COUNTRIES**

**“Timor-Leste’s Policy during its Leadership of the CPLP: a Globalised
Vision for the Future”**

**16 July 2014
Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa’e (UNTL)
Díli, Convention Centre of Díli**

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*Excellency Mr. President of the Instituto Universitário de Educação de Cabo Verde
Professor Doctor Florenço Mendes Varela*

*Distinguished Members of the Parliament
Members of Government*

Distinguished Faculty Members

*Distinguished Guests
Dear Students*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e in organising this conference at such a pertinent time and I thank the International Scientific Community for its support and for gracing this national initiative with its presence.

It is for me a great honour to address this auditorium and I am thankful to see so many Timorese students with an interest in better understanding the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, a group that has - as fundamental areas of its dynamic scope - education, investigation and cooperation. But it goes beyond this.

To begin, taking into account that I was asked to speak about Timor-Leste's policy towards the leadership of the CPLP, allow me to remind you here of those historical factors that moulded Timorese culture and identity.

Timor-Leste gathered throughout its history distinct elements that today foster its political identity.

To our own indigenous culture, with its heterogeneous ethnic and language diversity but also with a unique history supported by our own shared legends and animistic beliefs, absorbed through colonial experience a religion and cultural heritage that reached us at the hands of the Portuguese, in an encounter that we will celebrate in 2015 when we will mark the 500 years of the arrival of the first Lusitanian caravel to Lifau, in Oecussi.

Both the catholic faith and the Portuguese language took up roots in our existence, assuming more visible presence during period of the Indonesian occupation and becoming an important instrument for the Timorese resistance.

It was from this meeting of cultures and civilisations that our small half-island, with an enclave inside the other half, within an archipelago composed of over 14 thousand small and large islands of Indonesia that our Country, Timor-Leste, affirmed itself as a People, the Maubere, and as a Lusophone Nation.

It is important to remember that here the “maubere miracle” of independence took place thanks also to the persistence of the “administrative power”, Portugal, its State, its governors and its People.

In addition, during the difficult years of our bloody struggle we received support from our other brother countries. It was due to a magnificent coming together of wills, and also of the States and People of the PALOP and Brazil, that our voice was cast into the international arena, and these countries tirelessly promoted the right to independence of the Timorese, maintaining their steadfast political and diplomatic solidarity.

Timor-Leste’s presidency of the CPLP is, as such, also a moment to thank the solidarity of the nations and peoples of Angola, Brazil, Cape-Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé e Príncipe. And this gesture will be consecrated as we name the Comoro Bridge for the CPLP, which will be inaugurated on the 22nd, with the presence of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of this Community.

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear students

The Community of Portuguese Language Countries was founded in 1996 in response to circumstances very different from today. At that time, composed of only 7 countries, it encompassed such disparate and challenging national settings, such as the civil war in Angola, the recent peace attained in Mozambique, and the growing regional integration of Portugal within the transformation of the CEE into the European Union.

It realised its founding axis on the Atlantic Ocean, pulling Maputo towards the West, rather than adventuring in search of new oceans.

The CPLP has been developing its own mechanisms of political and diplomatic focus, according to the themes dominating the international agenda, in particular by the United Nations system.

As I already mentioned, one of the key results of this unmatched effort was to end in a long process towards self-determination and independence for Timor-Leste, becoming part of the CPLP in 2002, enabling this Organisation a global dimension in a globalised world.

In truth, next week's X Summit of the Heads of State and of Government of the CPLP in Dili is not only an historical moment because Timor-Leste will take charge for its first time, and be responsible for presiding over this Organisation, but also because this is the first time since its foundation that this Meeting takes place in the Asia-Pacific region, shifting the geopolitical space of the Atlantic into the Indo-Pacific.

For us Timorese becoming part of the CPLP was key because it allowed us over the past 12 years to become an active part of the international community, creating stronger linkages of fraternity, feeling a sense of belonging in a world where talk, emotions, and negotiations are all done in Portuguese, with homes in Africa, America and Europe. Timor-Leste also offers a broader horizon to the Community and to each of its member-peoples.

In particular, Timor-Leste now welcomes the representatives of the Member-States of our Community, in a region that is the economic, financial and strategic axis of the world.

Timor-Leste continues to develop its natural process of international relations, deepening its relations with neighbouring States and establishing conditions for future integration into ASEAN, one of the most dynamic and globally integrated regions.

It is within this context, ladies and gentlemen, we must put into perspective the program that the Timorese presidency may propose to this Community, which reflects the future we want.

Acknowledging the year in which the CPLP will reach adulthood, turning 18 tomorrow, on the 17th June, it is appropriate to reflect on the changes taking place around the world and on the change that has taken place at international junctures.

This includes the extension of borders superimposing on traditional physical borders and also Timor-Leste's independence, with its international repercussions. This includes the events of September 11th 2001, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and, more recently, the tumult in the Arab world and the technological revolution and spread of the internet. And, naturally, we cannot ignore the economic rise of China bringing with it the growth of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

On the other hand, we witnessed the recent world financial crisis which although its origins were in the Anglophone countries, altered the global political and economic outlook, affecting almost all countries, many of which are still in the process of economic recovery, and that demonstrated the fragility of the global economic system and the need to restructure it.

The increase of international trade, the liberalisation investment flows, the shifts of mega economic trends, with pressure also felt on energy resources and on nature. As a result of this process of globalisation, multinational firms have grown and this has had significant implications for almost all of the world's governments.

This entire context changed each region across the four continents of the CPLP nations and changed the dynamic of regional economic integration.

It is important also to highlight the spaces where the Member-States of the CPLP are situated, with the action and influence of Angola and Mozambique in the Community for the Development of Southern Africa (known also as SADC), of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde in the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO), of São Tomé e Príncipe in the Economic Community of the Central African States (CEEAC), of all these PALOP in the African Union, of Brazil in the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUL) and of Portugal in the European Union.

Meanwhile, these different regional frameworks and the geographic discontinuity do not make our efforts towards dialogue and cooperation between the nations of the CPLP less valid. Quite the contrary, these are opportunities on which we can capitalise and are platforms for globalisation, as respect for differences and feelings of belonging to a Community of Peoples and Cultures can benefit each one of these countries.

In other words, the CPLP can be understood as a platform on which each member-State can manage its own process for participation in global trade through regional integration, as long as it is an Organisation that serves its Peoples.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear students

We see here that which unites us as a Community: a shared past of historical links, a common identity and a common assimilation of universal values which have given way to unique shows of solidarity and fraternity between peoples who express themselves in the same language - a crucial pillar for our education systems and the training of our peoples.

Nevertheless, what can we do together to overcome the challenges imposed by a globalisation that has polarised individual actions, in which each of our countries must face our own challenges and also in the way we relate to the region in which we are located?

What can we do to transform the asymmetries of our countries, in the current phase of development, with proposals of clear evolution, enabling action and interdependency of efforts of all States and countries, to guide the sustainable development of our peoples?

How can we ensure a successful future for the CPLP as a community, maximising the benefits associated with globalisation and mitigating its risks?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To start off with, we must identify our weaknesses, with sobriety, and examine our capacity, with frankness – because only this way will we be able to appreciate the contribution that each of us can give.

The Timorese presidency in adopting the theme “The CPLP and Globalisation” wishes to set a new course for the policies of the CPLP, which are being updated according to the global demands of humanity.

“Let us plant the flag of the CPLP in the business of the world and let us be also the messengers of peace, of the defence of human rights and social justice wherever we are represented.” This is the motto that Timor-Leste wishes to imprint in the core of this Organisation.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear students

The Timorese presidency proposes to establish a program of action that allows giving continuity to the work of preceding presidencies, focussing on already defined priorities, identified around three axes:

1. The political and diplomatic concentration
2. Cooperation
3. The promotion of the Portuguese language

In the first axis, the presidency of Timor-Leste will progress and maintain political-diplomatic actions within the international agenda, be they at the United Nations, or in other international forums, and we will promote possible dialogue and coordination of the positions of member-States of the CPLP about the key challenges facing the world.

I would like to now highlight that the Timorese presidency will contribute as much as possible towards the process of stabilising Guinea-Bissau, with whom Timor-Leste has already opted to get more directly involved, initially within the framework of the g7+.

As you will already know, we have supported Guinea-Bissau financially and with a technical team under the leadership of our Secretary of State for Administrative Decentralisation with vast experience attained during the several electoral episodes in Timor-Leste, the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau.

Also the United Nations mission in Guinea-Bissau, until very recently, under the leadership of our former President of the Republic, Dr José Ramos-Horta, whom accompanied the efforts of the Bissau-Guinean people in the undertaking of their electoral process.

The Timorese mission of support obtained high results in voter registration and, as you know, the elections – parliamentary and presidential – were a success, through a massive democratic demonstration that served also as a sign of the wishes of all the Bissau-Guinean people for peace and stability.

These brothers, whom inspired us during our struggle for liberation, were the first to recognise our independence, and as they reinstated their constitutional normalcy, will continue to be a target of our solidarity and support.

We know that elections are the mere starting point. For a State unable to provide for the basic needs of its people, there are many challenges ahead – financial, social and administrative – it is fundamental to realise the promise of peace and national unity.

We believe that we, with the other partners of the CPLP, can support the consolidation of the gains already achieved in these brother countries.

In the second axis, about cooperation, we will strengthen this which has become one of the key pillars of the CPLP.

As you are aware, Timor-Leste is currently implementing a series of projects, in particular at the bilateral level, in regards to the CPLP countries, in practically all sectors, highlighting here the areas of education, justice, defence, health, public works, tourism and natural resources, to mention but a few only.

We wish to give continuity and support for cooperation projects in the areas of development, creating new synergies and focussing naturally in sectors that aim towards the economic growth of our peoples.

In the third axis, the promotion of the Portuguese language, I take this opportunity to highlight that the promotion of this official language will emerge stronger during the Timorese presidency.

Here it is fundamental to mention that Timor-Leste paid a high cost to belong to this language which was also the language of our resistance. A banning of its use, for over two decades, had a tremendous impact in the development of a new generation and also of our education systems.

On the one hand, Portuguese never stopped being the official language of Timor-Leste, but on the other hand, it was never the language of the majority of the people. And, for obvious reasons, Timor-Leste lagged behind in efforts to widen its scope and encouraging its appropriation by our citizens. Of all member-States, Timor-Leste has the most need to increase the use of and mastery of this language.

Notwithstanding, the Portuguese language, more than the symbolic value attributed because of the crucial role it played during our period of struggle for independence, it is also an important instrument of geopolitical identity.

Portuguese is today recognised by many as an instrument of our own uniqueness in the region and, increasingly, it is becoming among the agents of global progress, as a language for the sciences and technology, with steady growth and adequate positioning to compete in the global labour and knowledge markets.

With over 250 million Portuguese language speakers, this is also the fifth most spoken language in the world and the third most spoken in the western world.

We will thus continue efforts to promote new initiatives aimed at strengthening and promoting the position of the Portuguese language in the world system, including making national efforts, with the expansion of the teaching of the language in the private schools, including Catholic schools and at private universities.

The International Institute of Portuguese Language (IILP) which was even established prior to the founding of the CPLP, and was adopted by it as one of its key fundamental organs, has come to play a key role in the teaching, promotion and internationalisation of the Portuguese language, and it is one of the objectives of the Timorese presidency to strengthen this institute and seeks new partnerships which can promote our language in common.

As such, I am delighted to inform you that following up on the sequence of initiatives already promoted in Brasilia in 2010 and in Lisbon in 2013, the Timorese presidency will organise in Dili in 2016 the Third International Conference about the Portuguese Language in the World System, thus continuing focussing in the promotion and diffusion of the Portuguese language through global strategies.

I believe this Conference today will also provide important clues about the key role of the Portuguese language in investigation, education, cooperation and development, in such a way that we will be able to draft the guidelines for that which might be debated at the Conference to take place in 2016 in Dili.

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen
Dear students

Other important initiatives will mark the next two years, following up on the preceding presidencies, such as the Youth Forum and the Civil Society Forum which will be held in 2015.

In the meantime, in reference to the theme “CPLP and Globalisation” that will guide our programs, we believe this multilateral forum has now the opportunity to promote cooperation in the economic domain.

We shall as such make the best use of the potential each country has in the sectors of development, encourage the exchange of experience and competencies that will lead to inclusive and sustainable development, always aware of our linguistic ties and our common legal tradition.

We want to promote from the onset cycles of conferences that develop themes on entrepreneurship, business, investment, industry, tourism, in particular ecotourism and community tourism, and focus on economic cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

The CPLP countries increasingly occupy key places in regards to deposits of energy resources. Brazil and Angola are within the top 20 producers of oil in the world. In Mozambique, the recent finds of natural gas seem to indicate that in the short term, Mozambique will be a world leader in the production of natural gas with reserves equal to those in Qatar. São Tomé e Príncipe also has tremendous potential with its joint maritime zone share with Nigeria to be able to become an exporter of mineral resources. Timor-Leste and Equatorial Guinea (with the presumed adhesion to the CPLP during this Summit) are two of the most mineral revenue dependent countries.

Realising the importance of natural resources (in particular oil and gas and petroleum) for the CPLP countries, this is an area in which the countries in the community will be exposed to external risks, such as those demonstrated by the low international prices during the recent world financial crisis. This suggests this is an area where there can be greater scope for cooperation in terms of funds management, of mechanisms to mitigate the impacts, of fighting tax evasion and in the exchange of experience in the various areas.

In this context, and in close collaboration with the Entrepreneurial Confederation of the CPLP, the Timorese presidency shall organise in early 2015, the first Global Economic Forum.

Timor-Leste is committed to begin consolidating a new path towards economic cooperation, seeking to gather the consensus of the member-States to this, also whilst keeping in our common agenda the new paradigm for the fight against poverty, and thus strengthening our pillar of cooperation.

This is a challenge, considering the heterogeneous characteristics and the economic, social and political realities that each of our States faces, but the benefits may prove advantageous both in terms of the expansion of markets and increased investment and

above all in terms of the transfer of knowledge and experience that may lead to the development of new ideas and contribute to this new global economic paradigm.

We have added advantages for being an exclusive club of only eight nations to date; as such the debate can be more honest and programmatic.

The purpose of the CPLP is to improve the quality of life of its peoples. A global vision for our common future is to mobilise political-diplomatic will and efforts but also human, scientific, technologic and financial resources which will allow the development and progress of each one of the citizens of our Community.

On the 21st there shall be a meeting of Finance Ministers of the CPLP and other specialists in economics, under the theme 'The Impact of Globalisation on Public Finance in the CPLP'. And on the 24th, a Seminar about the 'Economic Globalisation and Opportunities for Investment: the CPLP and the Asian-Pacific Region'.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish this International Scientific Conference will bring also important reflection for the CPLP debates and for the creation of new opportunities for development in the area of education.

Education and training continue to among the highest priorities for Timor-Leste to improve the life opportunities of our people and so they can realise their potential.

Without quality education we will not be able to reach the objective of development and economic growth for Timor-Leste.

Thank you very much.

16 July 2014

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão