



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**OPENING NOTES
BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO,
AT THE LECTURE ON PEACE AND SECURITY
PRESENTED BY LAKHDAR BRAHIMI**

**Institute for Diplomatic Studies, MFAC
12 August 2015**

Your Excellencies,

Former President of the Republic and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dr José Ramos-Horta

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Lakhdar Brahimi
Government Members

Your Excellencies

Dean of the Timor Lorosa'e National University
Representatives from the Diplomatic Corps
Representatives from the Organizing Agencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by praising the joint initiative by the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Office of the President of the Republic, the Nobel Peace Prize Office, the National Defence Institute and the Timor Lorosa'e National University for organizing this lecture on peace and security. I also want to thank you for inviting me to preside over its opening session.

I am also very pleased to welcome Mr Lakhdar Brahimi as a distinguished guest at this event. Mr Brahimi is one of our century's leading diplomats and I trust that he will have the opportunity to see a bit of our country, which today lives in an atmosphere of peace, stability and security.

Indeed, talking about peace, stability and security means talking about Lakhdar Brahimi. While I do not want to use much of your time introducing a person who needs no introduction, even more so as I can think of no one better than His Excellency Dr José Ramos-Horta to make that introduction, I must nevertheless mention his valuable contribution towards peace.

First and foremost, Mr Lakhdar Brahimi has always been a man of convictions. From 1956 to 1961 he fought in the resistance during the Algerian War of Independence, similar to what we Timorese did so that Timor-Leste might today be free. This commitment to his country was also extended to the entire world. After holding the Foreign Affairs brief, Mr Brahimi took on several high-level positions in the United Nations, thus dedicating over 50 years of his life to peace.

As the President of the High-Level Panel on United Nations Peace Operations he produced the famous "Brahimi Report", which is one of the most influential documents on peace operations over the last 15 years, which set forth the basis for the United Nations doctrine on this subject.

Mr Brahimi did not hesitate to point the weaknesses in peace operations and the need for preventive and diplomatic action, as well as the need for an effective response. This represented a major change in the United Nations action paving the way for what are often referred to as multidimensional operations, aimed at creating favourable

conditions for peacebuilding and statebuilding. In following doctrine, Timor-Leste has been identified as one of the countries requiring these types of more complex missions, requiring different planning and deployment from the ones that had been used until then.

I am very proud to say that recently we have had a new contribution in this field. I say that I am “very proud” because I am talking about the recent “Ramos-Horta Report”, if you will allow me to call it that, which was led by our illustrious brother as the President of the High-Level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

This new report updates and recontextualises some of the concerns of the international community on how to achieve peace in the current face of conflict, often characterized by repeated cycles of violence, low state authority, presence of transnational actors and of violent extremist groups, as well as linkages to organized crime, among other aspects.

The report also warns about the need to seek new political solutions focusing on preventive diplomacy and political efforts to maintain peace processes on the right track, as well as about the need to work alongside regional organizations and civil society, increasing inclusiveness and ownership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The lecture today is an important contribution and a source of inspiration for the country to increase its dedication and its efforts towards peace. All these discussions are extremely important in view of today’s global landscape and can be a valuable contribution to a reflection on Timorese foreign policy, based on the principle of friendly relations with all countries in the world and of contributing to the promotion of peace, security and stability.

These are not merely internal values, but rather crosscutting and multifactor concepts, that relate to the participation of our country in the regional and global security architecture.

Today’s event is an opportunity for preparing the future leaders of the nation, contributing to a greater understanding of regional and global issues while giving everyone a global perspective. Additionally, it is part of a set of seminars and lectures organized by the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in partnership with other agencies, inviting distinguished personalities from the region and the rest of the world in order to share experiences and ideas on peace processes around the world.

Once again I would like to thank Mr Brahimi and Dr José Ramos-Horta for their contribution. I look forward to a lecture that will surely increase the knowledge of everyone in the audience.

Thank you very much.

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo
Dili, 12 August 2015