



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

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE,
DR RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO,
AT THE SOLEMN OPENING SESSION OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE
CPLP**

**Noble Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dili
26 October 2015**

Your Excellencies

Ministers of the Interior and Internal Administration of the CPLP Member States, and their representatives

Representative of the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP

Members of Parliament

Fellow Government Members

Former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Your Excellencies

Members of the Delegations from the CPLP Member States

Diplomatic Corps

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Timor-Leste! It is with great satisfaction that I welcome you to our country. I sincerely hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a little bit of Timor-Leste or at least of Dili, also called "City of Peace", as I know that your schedules are very busy.

Please allow me to greet in particular the representative from the Ministry of the Interior and Local Corporations from Equatorial Guinea, whose presence for the first time in this meeting confirms this country's acknowledgement and commitment concerning the need to strengthen cooperation in the area of security, based on the principles enshrined in the Declaration and Statutes of the CPLP, namely Peace, Democracy, the Rule of Law, Human Rights and Social Justice, respect for integrity and the promotion of development.

Timor-Leste has taken part in the Meetings of the Ministers of the Interior and Internal Administration of the CPLP since the very first meeting back in 2008. Now, as the country occupying our Community's pro tempore Presidency, we are proud to host the 4th edition of this biennial meeting.

When we speak of Security we are talking about human safety as well as country security and the fight against illegal activities and economic crime, which contributes to stability at political, economic and social level.

Talking about Security, sharing our experiences – each one with its own particularities – and reflecting together on the most varied challenges we face today on the path to a prosperous and developed society is both timely and necessary.

When we assumed the Presidency of our Community we wanted to make it more global, as globalization is a reality that encompasses every country on Earth. We want to use globalization to boost economic growth in our countries, both as members of our Community and at the regional and international level.

The interdependence generated by globalization means that Security is essential in the regional architecture. Regional stability contributes to the success of our strategies, to the strengthening of trust between countries and, consequently, to economic investment.

The privileged geostrategic position of Timor-Leste, between the Pacific Ocean and the Indic Ocean, benefits and potentiates our competitiveness as a Community, opens doors to multilateral partnerships and increases economic and business activities, which in turn will provide economic development that will improve the living standards of our citizens.

We know that in order to attract this investment that is vital to our development we absolutely need for our countries to have security, stability and lasting peace, since otherwise there can be no sustainable development!

Only a few weeks ago in New York, our countries and the other countries in the world approved the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals include goal 16, which strengthens the key elements of peace, justice and institutions. As such, we consider this goal to be the basis for our path towards sustainable development.

We are also aware that we must offer conditions representing greater security and less risk for everyone, including investors, so that we can attract investment and consequently diversify our economy. And while this requires the contribution of many sectors, the Security sector assumes a vital importance.

Timor-Leste has been walking in the right path, which is why the country enjoys today an environment of security that, together with the effort to attract national and foreign investment, constitutes a cornerstone of Timor-Leste's development.

We are here today so that we may continue walking this path, both internally and internationally. The construction of a more secure society overall depends first and foremost on what we, the citizens and leaders, can do within the local and global context in order to ensure the dignity of the human person.

As brothers and sisters sharing common history, values and language, it is up to us to continue building together the pathways towards peace, security and development.

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2011 we launched our Strategic Development Plan up to 2030, based on the identification of the existing needs, the definition of the strategic goals to be achieved and the activities to be carried out as reference projects, so as to organise and systematise development and the consolidation of several sectors of the State of Timor-Leste, including the Security sector.

In what concerns the Protection and Security Agencies of Timor-Leste, we developed Sector Strategic Plans seeking to establish priority activities or projects. We want to achieve higher efficiency levels and better implementation of security public policies, so as to provide better services to our citizens.

We obtained remarkable results in terms of the operational product and the institutional valorisation of the Protection and Security Agencies, in view of the need for development and consolidation, together with the expansion of skills and expertise.

Today, when we talk of reducing the levels of reported crime; reducing the types of more violent and serious crimes; maintaining public order; carrying out innovative and successful projects supporting women and children who are the victims of domestic violence and punishing those who perpetrate that violence; taking part in international missions, such as the case of Guinea-Bissau, to ensure security during electoral periods; and designing special community policing programmes, we talk of the remarkable contribution made by our Police to keep Timor-Leste a country that offers guarantees of freedom and safety to our citizens and to those who visit us.

All of this is a testimonial of the effort and work by those who look after our safety and our freedom.

Maintaining safety and stability is as important as attaining them. As such, we require more means and more human resources to accompany the development of our society and our country. This is a great challenge for our young State and one we face with responsibility, since we know we will not meet it overnight.

Our planning care and effort are directed to the future and to all that we must still do and improve so that the work done by our Security and Civil Protection Forces and Services is compatible with the prestige of those Institutions and the expectations both in Timor-Leste and abroad.

The Security sector is a vital and crosscutting pillar in the development of the country! We require a Security sector that is credible and that conveys confidence to everyone. It is essential that we have a strong Security sector ensuring and protecting the rights of citizens, while enabling sustainable development.

This is why the Sixth Constitutional Government is committed to harmonising and standardising laws, as well as to introducing reforms enabling the consolidation of security policies, so as to ensure that the Institutions looking after the Safety and Protection of the citizens work more effectively.

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past week we have been drafting the technical issues that will be put to ministerial debate today. These are issues of enormous importance for each of our countries internally, acquiring even greater importance within the dynamic of our Community and the world.

Crime Prevention and Proximity Policing; Protecting Nature and the Environment; the Civilian Management of Crises, Weapons and Explosives; Criminal Investigation; Preventing and Combating Illegal Immigration and Human Trafficking; Observing the Migration Flows and the Network of Female Police Officers are areas of cooperation where our countries can benefit considerably and which are very important for benefitting other peoples and countries throughout the world.

As we are a Community that promotes the development of multilateral cooperation based on the respect for Human Rights, the international seminar on “The CPLP towards Human and Global Security” is both an opportunity and a privileged space for sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices developed by each of our member States.

The subjects covering the areas of police, migration, foreign citizens and borders, civil protection and firefighters, and which have been reviewed and discussed over the past few days, are very important within our Community of brothers and sisters and provided us with another opportunity for promoting and strengthening the development of our cooperation relationships.

As such, let us use this Ministerial Meeting to review together the proposals and conclusions by the Council of Chiefs of Police, the Council of National Directors of Migrations, Foreign Citizens and Borders, and the Council of National Commanders / National Directors / Presidents of Public Rescue / Civil Protection and Firefighters, and reaffirm our commitments through the Dili Declaration, which we will be signing later today.

Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to praise the outgoing President, the Vice-Minister of the Interior of Mozambique, for the support and dedication displayed during his mandate and for presiding over this meeting. To the Minister of the Interior of Timor-Leste, which will be assuming the role of President, I wish great success in serving our Community by taking on such important tasks.

I would also like to thank Portugal for its cooperation efforts in the area of Security, particularly through the National Republican Guard, which have contributed so much to the development of our still young National Police of Timor-Leste and to the consolidation of the Security sector.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that our Governments are the main parties responsible for achieving the goals we have in the Security sector. It is vital that we cooperate with one another so that everyone will benefit from our common desire to have a peaceful and prosperous future.

I wish you good work and a safe return home. Thank you!

Dr Rui Maria de Araújo
26 October 2015