DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Country statement
By H.E Mr. Dionísio Babo Soares
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Timor-Leste
On the Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality

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UNCC
Bangkok, Thailand

Thank you Excellency (change as appropriate)
Madam Executive Secretary
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

1. It is an honour and with a great pleasure for me to represent my country Timor-Leste to share the progress and development that Timor-Leste has achieved and challenges we are facing in the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

2. The fundamental principles and objectives of our State enshrined in our Constitution is to build a society based on social justice, guarantee that basic needs of our people is met in an equal and equitable manner.

3. Our Strategic Development Plan aims to provide a better future where our people will be more educated, healthier and wealthier by 2030. The SDP (strategic development plan) was put together after intensive consultations throughout the country; it reflects the aspiration and the hope of our people.

Progress and challenges

4. Timor-Leste is currently preparing its first VNR (Voluntary National Review) on the progress of SDGs implementation. Throughout the preparatory process, the government reached out to all level of the society for a through consultation with major groups, various stakeholders, and development partners. The national NGOs has formed an advisory body and acts as the guide and facilitate the VNR process and ensuring the engagement of grass root communities, including reaching out to rural community and listen to their voices. Ours is an open and the whole of society approach.

5. Timor-Leste is taking measures to improve effectiveness and efficiency to support the implementation and crucial costing of commitments in the SDGs. A budgetary governance roadmap, developed in 2017, with support from the OECD to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of budgeting, is a crucial building block in supporting implementation of the SDGs. This roadmap is part of broader public administration, and public financial and fiscal reform. In line with the Addis agenda on financing for development, Timor-Leste has undertaken key steps to strengthen the country’s tax systems to mobilise domestic resources and ensure fiscal sustainability as the enabler for sustainable development.

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6. Timor-Leste is one of the first countries to commit to the Secretary General’s development system reforms including the implementation of the new RC system which will focus on helping the country to accelerate the SDGs implementation.

7. In this context, Timor-Leste has made a token contribution to the Special Trust Fund established by the Secretary General to initiate the implementation of the RC system from this year.

8. This year, the first ever UN Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF) in Timor-Leste is being evaluated and a new UNDAF will be discussed, along with Timor-Leste’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) to be presented in the July’s HLPP, it is timely and opportune to re-enforce our partnership with the UN system to achieve the SDGs inspiration.

9. Partnerships for sustainable development are important vehicles to support the achievement of sustainable development and Timor-Leste is committed to harnessing dynamic partnerships to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

10. As a small island state dependent on trade, increasing trade capacity of Timor-Leste through potential accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will make an important contribution to the SDGs, paving the favourable conditions to attract FDI as well as home grown private sectors.

11. Therefore, Timor-Leste continue to develop partnerships for sustainable development to support the achievement of sustainable development and Timor-Leste is committed to harnessing dynamic partnerships to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

12. Timor-Leste continues using its available resources; expertise and capacity to tackle important challenges and maintain progress are significant.

13. Continuing engage with private sector in financing development in Timor-Leste in addressing financing gaps and promoting sustainable growth.

14. The government continue its regular dialogue with the private sector on the SDGs is needed to address how they play a key role in financing development and offering innovative solutions.

15. This year, June Timor-Leste will co-hosting the annual Timor-Leste’s Development Partners Meeting with objective to deepening our coordination with the development partners for effective prioritisation of development agenda.

16. To conclude, the world has set itself with ambitious goals for humanity, I urge each and every one of us rise up to the challenges for a better future of our planet and humanity.

Thank you.