

**Timor-Leste brief intervention on the agenda Item 3: Cross-cutting issues in transport (a) Transport connectivity for efficient and resilient supply chains  
12 Nov 2020**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and delegates

1. My delegation would like share some development on the agenda item 4 on accelerating action for the achievement of the SDG's.
2. Roads are the primary mode of transport in Timor-Leste. The country has an extensive road network totaling 6,941 km, consisting of 1,427 km of national roads; 812 km of district roads; 1,975 km of core rural roads; and, 3,567 km of non-core rural roads.
3. In the rest of the country, the road network consists of five north-south connectors linking the northern corridor across the mountainous to the east-west road along the southern coastal plain.
4. Nevertheless, most of this network is still in poor condition, mainly due to unsuitable design and underinvestment in maintenance.
5. A deteriorated road network makes travel time longer, vehicles operating costs higher, and rural communities more isolated. It also has a negative impact on livelihoods and key basic services including employment, health, and education.
6. Nevertheless, with the poor road infrastructure condition and poor roads maintenance makes it hard for the road users and makes it easy for road accident. During the rainy season (October-April), driving can be very hazardous due to flash flooding.
7. To accelerate the transformation action and improve the connectivity, the government is continuing improving the road system. The road improvements are part of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-assisted Road Network Upgrading Sector Project, which aims to accelerate economic opportunities, promote private sector growth, increase agricultural productivity, and reduce poverty.
8. In addition, Timor-Leste is also continuing working with its partner such as the World Bank to improve and upgrade the major road to boost safety and economic Opportunities.
9. Last year the World Bank approved a US\$59 million credit to begin rehabilitating the 44.3km road corridor from Gleno to Hatubuilico, as one of Timor-Leste's most popular tourist destinations.
10. The second phase of the project has started in Sept 2020 to improved roads from Hatubuilico to Dili-Ainaro road corridor, aiming to improving road access and safety for tourists, farmers and coffee producers.
11. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Public Works of Timor-Leste, financing by the World Bank International Development Association, the government of Timor-Leste also contributed US\$11.8 million to the project and this project is expected to be completed by December 2023.
12. In addition, in July 2019, the government organized a high-level dialogue with Development Partners focused on improving alignment and harmonization of partners' programs with government's program. It also launched a new Foreign Aid Policy (2019) aimed at promoting principles of aid effectiveness and a more structured engagement with development partners.
13. Timor-Leste is continuing focuses on its priorities to improve and enhance its connectivity, broadened access to services, resilient infrastructure, improved public sector capacity as well as rehabilitation and upgrading of national roads and its highways.
14. Timor-Leste would like to thanks our development partners and other stakeholders for all the support giving to Timor-Leste to enhance its transports connectivity systems.
15. Timor-Leste is committed to implement the agenda 2030 and continue to enhance it bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation to enhance its transport connectivity and building a back better from the COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention

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