



Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Rui Maria de Araújo
Prime Minister**

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

to the

**United Nations Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Interactive Dialogue 5: Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions
to achieve sustainable development**

**27 September 2015
New York**

Check Against Delivery

Co-Chairs,

Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea,
Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile,

Timor-Leste welcomes the inclusion of Goal 16 as a cornerstone of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. We championed the inclusion of this goal, because we know from experience that strong institutions are at the confluence of efforts to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development. Our brief history since independence presents a living example of the trials and triumphs of this reality.

During the infancy of our democracy we hosted an inordinate international presence, spending vast amounts of money in the name of peace and development. Yet it was poverty that was growing, not our economy. Following the 2006 crisis, a significant proportion of our population was internally displaced.

By 2008, it was evident we had to chart a new course. Coming to terms with our situation, and seeking to take control of our own destiny, we set about building the foundations of an inclusive, representative and responsive state. We had to instil confidence in a traumatised population. People had to know the government was focused on their needs, and had the ability to serve those needs.

We focused on promoting transparency and training the civil service. To enshrine the rule of law, and build a stable and trusting society, we also undertook to reform the police and armed forces; and set about developing an effective legal system, based on procedural fairness and compliance with basic rights and freedoms. At the same time we engaged in a series of national dialogues, providing people with access to information and a platform to listen to citizen voices.

Most of all, people needed to see tangible evidence that their government was working to improve living conditions. We sought support to put in place an orderly and accelerated programme to facilitate the safe return of the internally displaced, assisting with the rebuilding and repair of their homes. We rolled out a package of small works programmes to provide employment, and an economic stabilisation fund as a temporary measure to protect against rising food prices. We passed legislation granting social protection for our most vulnerable groups, and invested in the construction of a power plant to provide electricity across the country. Some of these measures caused disquiet amongst our partners, largely because the international system was out of tune with the peacebuilding and statebuilding realities we faced.

We continue to invest in our human resource plan, to develop a workforce with the skills we need to meet immediate and future needs. By investing in our people, and building our institutional capacity, we have been able to provide a foundation of security and peace, and grow our economy to provide more jobs. We have a long-term plan that represents the aspirations of the Timorese people, and serves as the blueprint to develop our infrastructure and improve our social services. Despite our progress we still face many challenges, and we know that we have a long road ahead of us.

We are greatly encouraged, however, that through the inclusion of Goal 16, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* provides a supportive basis for the realisation of our long-term national development plan.

Growing global momentum will advance our collective understanding of how to improve the main dimensions of governance, and in doing so progress our common desires for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. We look forward to working with the *Praia group*, established by the Statistical Commission, as we develop a robust evidence base around the effectiveness, accountability and accessibility of our institutions. As we look forward to working in multi-stakeholder partnerships that can help enhance our public sector institutions. Cross-institutional cooperation will be a core component of the successful implementation of goal 16, and indeed all other goals.

I thank you.