



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
VI CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF STATE,  
COORDINATING MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES,  
ENG. ESTANISLAU ALEIXO DA SILVA,**

**AT THE**

**THE UNITED NATIONS THE OCEAN CONFERENCE  
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14**

**PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE 5:**

**INCREASING ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES AND LEAST DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES AND PROVIDING ACCESS FOR SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERS TO MARINE RESOURCES  
MARKET**

*New York, United Nations, 05 – 09 June 2017*

**[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]**



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**Distinguished Co-Presidents and Co-Facilitators;  
Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**It is a pleasure to be here and participate in this Partnership Dialogue. Timor-Leste strongly feels that we must cement a solid basis for partnership. The oceans do not know borders. We must work together and better manage our marine resources to provide economic benefits to our citizens and serve the international community.**

**As current leaders of a Small Island Developing State, it is our firm conviction that the formal mandates we democratically receive from the People impose upon ourselves a moral obligation to work hard and take all necessary actions to ensure a better quality of life, both to the current generation and to generations to come.**





**For Timor-Leste, our dreams and aspirations have been translated into a Strategic Development Plan 2011 – 2030, mobilizing the entire country to implement reforms and build the required infrastructure necessary to boost sustainable development, and generate opportunities and concrete benefits to all. As a relatively young country, we continue to lay down the foundations of a modern State, with a democratic system of government, and the rule of law. We are developing an enabling environment for doing business and trade, both in goods and services, within an environment of peace, stability, and security.**

**As a SIDS, we know the challenges are enormous. It is essential for us to ensure our marine area is secure in all its various aspects through: protecting key marine areas for biodiversity, food security, and climate change; ensuring port security to improve trade; taking up our option of exploitation and exploration of our Exclusive Economic Zone; combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities; as well as illegal immigration, and pollution, among others points.**





**From an economic point of view, a major challenge facing Timor-Leste is the preparation for an advantageous and dynamic integration into the world economy. As a SIDS, who has been working towards an effective membership of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), we are aware of the pressure on productiveness and competitiveness, while catering for the sustainable management of resources. This is one of the greatest challenges humanity faces today.**

**The theme of this Partnership Dialogue is to encompass a wide range of issues surrounding the ocean, its resources, and the economic benefits we must ensure to our citizens. In particular the small-scale artisanal fishers whose very livelihoods depend upon the sustainable production and health of the oceans.**

**Timor-Leste looks forward to the outcomes of the Ocean Conference, especially as we are now finalizing our National Ocean Policy to be a more consistent, coherent and effective country in terms of implementing our 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.**



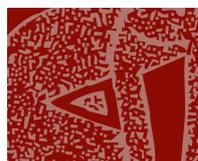


**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Timor-Leste is aware that besides enabling maritime transportation, the ocean is a source of important resources, such as food, renewable energy, minerals, oil and gas.**

**In Timor-Leste, we also look at the ocean as an important contributor to coastal and marine nature-based tourism, which is an important key option in our efforts to diversify the economy from an oil based one. We are therefore faced with the urgency of coastal planning and the protection of vital reef, seagrass, and mangrove habitats in order to enhance and conserve our valuable natural and cultural heritage.**

**The sustainability of fisheries is a key concern of my Government, as an important contributor to food security and increased economic activity. Timor-Leste has placed a focus on promoting marine ecosystem based management approaches, which when combined with adequate and effective policies, is keeping inshore fish harvesting at sustainable levels.**



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**A strategy for the development of marine resources cannot be adopted in isolation. The environment has no border and recognizes no manmade boundaries! We deem it crucial to develop appropriate and effective cooperation with neighboring States, and the international community, and hope this Partnership Dialogue continues to shed light on this issue.**

**Furthermore, we have to face the key challenge of fostering marine based economic development without causing irreversible harm to the marine environment. Combating upstream pollution, and environmental degradation of the oceans and seas is therefore another priority for national and regional agendas. To that end, Timor-Leste has adopted a “Zero Plastic Policy” as one of its Deliverables under the Voluntary Commitments, and we are working towards alternatives to plastics which will enhance and not disrupt current economic activities.**





**The results of marine activities depend to a large extent on the “good health of the seas and oceans”. Scientific and technological research is also essential for the sustainable development of marine economic activities. It is fundamental that we seek broad and solid knowledge of the existing marine resources in order to promote sustainable fisheries, and understand the characteristics such as marine subsoil, if we are going to promote sustainable exploitation in our Exclusive Economic Zones.**

**Thank you all for your kind attention.**

**New York, June 2017.**



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