

Speech to be delivered by Haoliang Xu (Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP) at the Opening Ceremony of the

Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda:

A Roadmap for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict-affected States

Dili Convention Centre

Dili, Timor-Leste

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Salutations,

Excellencies, distinguished guests,

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I would like to thank the Government of Timor-Leste and the g7+ Secretariat for organizing the Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda: A Roadmap for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict-affected Countries, and for the opportunity to address this distinguished audience.

The Secretary-General has repeatedly stated: Peace and Development are interrelated and cannot be addressed in isolation. The Secretary-General has also underscored: Sustainable Development is the best Prevention.

The Agenda 2030 aims to leave no one behind in development.

However, fragile and conflict affected states are faced with greater challenges than most others on how to attain the SDGs, as they at the same time have to strengthen peace and resilience. These states deserve special attention as they try to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals to their populations.

Since its restoration of Independence in 2002, the successive Constitutional Governments of Timor-Leste have always made the nexus between peace and development a priority.

Like the other g7+ member countries, Timor-Leste experienced a history of conflict.

However, it is one of the few countries where peace was not only made but also sustained after the departure of the peacekeepers. Today, the country is an example of the significant development gains that were achieved in just a few years.

Timor-Leste offers an important lesson as to how a country-owned strategy toward resilience can ensure sustainability of peace and development. The **New Deal principles**, which we strongly support, are born out of this experience and have played an important role in the country's development to date.

Timor-Leste has played a leading role in advancing the global agenda for peace and stability – through its engagement in the g7+ and New Deal processes and through its significant effort to promote the adoption of

SDG16. With the organization of this conference, together with the g7+ Secretariat, Timor-Leste has shown a willingness to share its own experiences in reconciliation, peace and state building.

I also would like to congratulate Timor-Leste for developing an SDG Roadmap, in synergy with the country's Strategy Development Plan 2011-2030. This Roadmap identifies the 'enablers' that are crucial for moving the development process forward, and offers a framework for the policies and institutional structures needed to achieve and sustain progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This international conference is taking place when the world is looking for examples of success and effective solutions to conflict prevention and peace building. I trust that this conference will mark an important milestone in the cooperation among fragile and conflict affected states.

I look forward to an effective knowledge exchange and a rich debate on how best to move from conditions of fragility and conflict to conditions of sustainable development.

I wish you a very successful conference.

Thank you.