

**SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Speech by H.E. the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste
Dr Francisco Guterres “Lú-Olo”
on the occasion of the Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals
CCD, Dili, 22 May, 2017.**

His Excellency the President of National Parliament, Dr Adérito Hugo

His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo

Excellencies,

I am very pleased to preside over the opening of the Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda as one of the first acts of my Presidency. On behalf of the people and the State of Timor-Leste, I welcome all participants of this important conference most warmly and offer you my best wishes for a pleasant stay in my beautiful country.

This is for me a sign of my country's and my own commitment to contribute to sustainable development and lasting peace in a constructive manner and at international level.

Timor-Leste was one of the few countries to ratify the 2030 Agenda at parliamentary level, even before it was approved by the United Nations. This clearly shows our commitment to both the global development agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am proud to say that Timor-Leste was a committed supporter of the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal no. 16 on the consolidation of peace and state-building in the 2030 Agenda. **Our support in this regard included attesting from our own experience that without peace there will be no development and without development there will be no peace.**

The path we have been following since the restoration of independence has given us extensive experience that, despite being specific to our country, is extremely relevant to other countries. Inspired by the solidarity shown worldwide to these countries, we have been sharing these experiences at international level and intend to continue doing so. We are not rich financially speaking, but we are rich in knowledge and experience that we wish to share with other countries in similar circumstances.

Excellencies,

The G7+, as an organization, was born in 2010. My country is proud to have been one of its founders. This group of countries to which we belong has been affected

by conflict which has led to fragility. Our participation in the foundation of this organisation represents our national commitment to the sustainable development global agenda.

Timor-Leste is therefore particularly pleased to host this Global Conference which has gathered in Dili so many world leaders and experts to discuss the challenges facing countries affected by conflict and fragility in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

These challenges should concern us all. Some studies suggest that by 2030 two thirds of the population in situations of extreme poverty will be living in fragile states. This number is quite worrying. If fragile or conflict-affected countries are not at the forefront in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the global goals of this Agenda will not be reached.

For post-conflict countries affected by fragility, both the consolidation of peace and the state-building process are inevitable requirements. However, the pursuit of the remaining Goals must also take into account the specific

context of these countries, including the unique challenges and opportunities that this context entails.

In order to reach sustainable peace while respecting our differences, reconciliation and dialogue are required. Being capable to build peace means managing conflicts in a constructive manner and avoiding war as it represents the destruction of human lives and a waste of resources. Conflict prevention and the search for lasting peace are the only wise choices.

If we look at Timor-Leste in particular, as President of the Republic I hope that the upcoming elections will yield a strong, honourable, competent and efficient government that enjoys broad legitimacy and contributes to progress in terms of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

As far as the Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation is concerned, I am pleased to know that Timor-Leste, despite being one of the world's youngest countries, has extensive experience of sharing knowledge with other states, especially in the areas of natural resource management, public finance management, peace and

reconciliation. We are also in a position to share our experience about managing transition following the end of the United Nations peacekeeping missions.

As Head of State of a country that has made significant progress in the transition from conflict to peace, but still wishes to reach higher levels of resilience and development, I look forward to working together with the leaders of other fragile and conflict-affected states towards sustainable peace, resilience and development on a global scale.

I believe that this Conference will provide an important contribution in this sense. I offer you my wishes for two days of successful and productive work.

I hereby declare the Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda officially open.

Thank you for your attention!