



SPEECH BY H.E. PRIME MINISTER DR. RUI MARIA DE ARAÚJO

*GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE 2030 AGENDA: A ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES*

CONFERENCE DINNER

MONDAY, 22 MAY 2017

Excellencies

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for joining us here in Dili for the Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda.

Particular thanks go to our international guests who have travelled a long way to be here with us - we are delighted to welcome you to Timor-Leste, and I hope that you take away many lasting memories of our beautiful country.

For those of you who have not visited Timor-Leste before, you are seeing a country that looked very different only fifteen years ago.

It was only fifteen years ago that we took our first steps as a nation, restoring our independence and inaugurating our first president.

On Saturday, 20 May, we inaugurated our fourth president since achieving independence, President Francisco Guterres "Lu-Olo".

Our peaceful presidential election in March was another marker of Timor-Leste's consolidation of a stable democracy, and another milestone in the process of nation-building that we have been undertaking since 2002.

Since taking those first steps, we have travelled a long road towards security, prosperity and development. We have had good friends in the international community who have walked with us, and we are grateful to those friends for their support.

Today, the conference gave us an opportunity to reflect upon our next fifteen years as a nation. We will be guided by our *Strategic Development Plan* which sets our vision for our nation – a healthy, well-educated and prosperous society with a diversified economy and good governance.

The Sustainable Development Goals will support this journey.

Today, we discussed at a high level our commitments and key resolutions. Tomorrow, we progress to technical meetings where we look to develop mechanisms for fragile and conflicted-affected States to cooperate in order to implement these 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

While we live on this half island nation, we also live in an interconnected world. Global economic conditions; world conflicts and peace; and international cooperation and solidarity will all affect our success and our future.

We will, however, work together as a nation to achieve the SDGs - eradicating extreme poverty, improving our children's health, lowering rates of maternal mortality, improving sanitation and many more - we will continue to work with our friends, including our fellow G7+ States, to achieve lasting peace and sustainable prosperity.

And in the spirit of the SDGs, we must all work together, as an international community, to ensure that no nation is left behind. If one nation fails, we all fail.

Ladies and gentlemen

Tomorrow, we have more work to do, but tonight I invite you to relax and enjoy our hospitality.

I urge all our visitors to make the most of your time here – to contribute to a wonderful conference as well as to gain a taste of what our country has to offer.

We are proud of our nation. We sacrificed so much to achieve our independence. And so, we will also fight with all we have to make sure we fulfil the promise of our future.

There is a long journey ahead of us, but the road is best travelled in the company of friends.

Thank you.