



Unidade Gestão de Parcerias para o Desenvolvimento

“Seja um bom cidadão, seja um novo héroi para a nossa Nação”

ASIA WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: LINKS TO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

PLENARY 5: SOUTH – SOUTH COOPERATION AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION – ASIAN APPROACHES.

Mr. Cancio de Jesus Oliveira, Director General of the Development Management Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Timor-Leste

Thank you Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished panel members.

First of all let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this workshop, UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh. I would like to bring you the regards from Mr. Helder da Costa who was not able to attend this workshop as he is accompanying H. E. Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, to ESCAP's Executive Session in Bangkok.

Please also allow me to express a heartfelt thank you to the many sons of Bangladesh that have served as policemen or civilian personnel in the UN missions that have operated in Timor-Leste since 1999, and among these the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Madam Ameerah Haq. What we have received from the single individuals from all over the world that supported the peace process in our country is the first example of triangular cooperation.

Timor-Leste is the youngest country in Asia and in just over 10 years has achieved a successful transition from conflict to stability. While this would have not been possible without the support from the UN, other multilateral organization, international financial institutions and our development partners, we have embraced the notion of south-south cooperation, spearheaded by countries such as Brazil, Cuba, China and South Africa, as an invaluable complement to north-south cooperation.

Through this type of collaboration we have not only received funding, which is only a fraction of our state budget thanks to the revenues of our natural resources. Most importantly we have benefitted from technical assistance, know-how, sharing of information and likewise the sharing of failures and lessons learned, enabling us to pursue our own path towards development. We firmly believe in this mechanism because we are convinced that countries at similar levels of development share similar philosophies and countries which are both donor and recipients of aid have a unique perspective on how effective development can be achieved.

As we consolidate our trajectory towards development we are also keen on paying back the assistance we have received from our development partners in the past decade. Timor-Leste is a small country, but it is the leading force behind the g7+ initiative and the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. These are the countries which are furthest away from achieving the MDGs and despite the significant investments and commitments of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action of 2008, results in the most conflict affected countries of the world have been modest.

Transitioning out of fragility is a long political effort that requires country leadership and ownership. Processes of political dialogue have failed due to lack of trust, inclusiveness and leadership. International partners often bypass national interests and actors, providing aid in overly technocratic ways that support short term successes at the expense of medium to long term sustainable results brought by building capacity and country systems. This was acknowledged in Busan, where also the g7+ initiative and the New Deal were endorsed by the High Level Forum.

The g7+ now gathers 18 countries that call for a better use of development assistance and are committed to the implementation of the New Deal, which challenges international actors to reform, re-invent and commit to a new paradigm of aid delivery, placing peace-building and state-building at the core of international engagement in fragile and conflict affected countries. Within the concept of south-south cooperation Timor-Leste has introduced and has been implementing a fragile to fragile (F to F) cooperation. Examples are our technical and development assistance to Guinea Bissau, where our former President Dr. Jose Ramos Horta has been appointed as Special Representative of the Secretary General, our close links to South Sudan and information sharing with the transitional government of Somalia.

Timor-Leste might be the best example in South East Asia for our commitment to transparency. With the support from Japan, Australia and the Asian Development Bank, we have been the first country to establish an online Aid Information Management System (AIMS), a key tool for both Government and development partners to better understand development trends and be able to plan efficient and effective interventions. Moreover, Timor-Leste is an active member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that ensures accountability around the country's oil, gas and mineral resources, ensuring more transparency in how these resources are governed, and full disclosure of government revenues from its extractive sector.

South-south and triangular cooperation will continue to play a key role in Timor-Leste. It has significantly increased in recent years and has taken various forms, including investment in infrastructure, technical cooperation, joint research and information sharing. Timor-Leste strongly supports the inclusion of this tool of cooperation in the agenda of the next Ministerial Meeting on Global Partnership to take place in Mexico in 2014 as it is imperative for countries in the south to have knowledge sharing for mutual benefits.

I would like to conclude with a few words on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, of which H.E. Madam Emilia Pires, Timor-Leste's Minister of Finance, is member of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons nominated by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Minister Pires is strongly advocating for the inclusion of targets in good governance and effective institutions, which are the baseline for stable and peaceful societies. When the MDGs were officially established during the Millennium Summit in 2000, Timor-Leste was still not even recognized as an independent country by the international community. Peace was not included in the MDGs but it is our experience that there can be no peace without development and no development without peace.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION