



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo
Prime Minister
of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

to the

**Plenary meetings of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the Post-
2015 Development Agenda**

**25-27 September 2015
New York**

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General

Excellencies, fellow leaders

The 70-year history of this great institution has been marked by a shared quest for peace and development. Today, we have before us a momentous opportunity to end this arduous journey. A united means to finally realise our common goals: To end extreme poverty; fight inequality and injustice; and to fix climate change. With the new Global Goals for sustainable development we can do this, and more, as we chart a fresh course for all countries, and all people.

This summit marks the culmination of our collegial endeavour to define a new, ambitious sustainable development agenda. What we have achieved over the course of the last two years is remarkable. And I commend all who have worked so tirelessly throughout the process that has brought us here this week, together with the unprecedented participation of civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

But we cannot seek applause just for putting in place a new suite of goals and targets. Our individual and collective success, or failure, will be judged on how we continue to work together, as national governments and the international community, to execute this new agenda.

Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General

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As we boldly step onto the path towards sustainability, we are reminded by the current state of the world that it will be a difficult, even perilous, journey. We are also very aware that all issues of principle have not been settled. The agenda presented to this assembly - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - provides a means to bridge our ideological differences, by reaching agreement on a set of practical actions that we can advance together. It provides a framework to navigate existing, looming, and as yet unforeseen challenges. It shifts us away from an aid-centric approach to development. For the first time we have a global agenda, which speaks to all people, and is to be applied by all countries. It recognises that development is a continuing spectrum. It cannot be achieved by merely copying the practices of others, and history dictates that imposed solutions rarely get traction. So we welcome the fact that the new agenda is founded on country stewardship, adapting international learning to our national and cultural contexts.

The best way we can equip ourselves for success will be by ensuring our institutions have the capacity to undertake the tasks they are charged with. No country is immune from the challenge of institutional capacity building; nor is our international or regional architecture. Without fit-for-purpose, effective and accountable institutions we cannot make the leap from lofty goal setting to delivering the services, infrastructure and programmes that our people deserve and demand.

In an era of meteoric change, and an increasingly turbulent world, it can no longer be a case of 'set and forget'. We need the means to respond to the rapid transfer of technologies and ideas, the increasing movement of people and the flight of capital. We need to establish and sustain appropriate systems of governance. These empower us to generate and manage the resources required to tackle poverty and inequality, and to live in harmony with our natural environment.

Our governments will be the primary custodians of this agenda, and domestic revenue mobilisation will be the principal means of implementation. But we cannot operate in isolation of our national, regional and international partners. We are mindful that as we seek to improve domestic resource collection and management, these efforts are often thwarted through tax avoidance and corruption. So as we set out to strengthen national institutions, we must also improve global governance around these and other issues as well.

We also remain aware of the importance of improving the delivery of international development assistance, centring on predictability and strengthening the use of country systems. If we are serious about eradicating extreme poverty, then we cannot shy away from our national and international commitments to properly resource the implementation of this agenda. Together we share a moral obligation to realise the long overdue aspirations set out in the new goals. Globally, we have the resources, the technology and the know-how. These elements can only be harnessed if we also commit and sustain broad political engagement for the duration of this agenda. We have before us a comprehensive plan of action. The test now is our willingness to act - to transform our ambitions into reality.

Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General

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Timor-Leste is proud of its participation in defining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pledges today to fulfil our role in its enactment. I am pleased to announce that our Council of Ministers has already endorsed the new global goals, paving the way to operationalise them within the context of our national Strategic Development Plan. Our vision is to transition from a low income to upper middle income country, with a healthy, well educated and safe population by 2030. We will only get there if we continue to focus on addressing the immediate needs of our people, while consolidating peace and stability, and building the institutions of State.

With this foundation we can and will continue to grow our economy to create more decent jobs for our people. We can and will invest in essential infrastructure and improve our social services. We can and will tackle rising inequality. We can and will be good global citizens. If we all step beyond our national affiliations and come together for the common good, we can defeat the scourge of climate change, protect our oceans, and improve life on land.

I urge all countries to join us today in taking ownership of this agenda. To not only adopt it, but in doing so to redouble our efforts and commitments towards its implementation. Accomplishing the goals, we have collectively set will require a renewed sense of international cooperation and collaboration. Shared learning and dialogue can guide us through the challenges of the next 15 years. Timor-Leste is proud to join the High-level Group on SDG Implementation. Together, we can unlock opportunities not yet envisaged. We can deliver a world of peace and prosperity for our children to inherit.

Let that be our legacy this week.

I thank you.