

Your Excellency Madame President of the General Assembly
Your Excellency Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates

1-On behalf of the President, the Government and the people of Timor-Leste, allow me to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 61st session of the General Assembly. Your experience and diplomatic competency will ensure the success of this august body.

2-I would also like to congratulate your predecessor, Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden, for his critical role in the reform of the United Nations, including the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

3- I would also like to extend my congratulation to their Excellencies, the Permanent Representatives and experts, for their positive contribution during the long and arduous negotiations. I take this opportunity to also congratulate H.E. the Ambassador of Angola, Gaspar Martins, for his election as President of the Peacebuilding Commission.

4. Allow me to extend our congratulations to the people and Government of Montenegro for its membership to the United Nations.

Excellencies
Distinguished delegates,

5- At the outset of this 61st session, a great son of Africa, Kofi Annan, delivered his last report as Secretary-General of our organization. In this complicated international landscape of the past 10 years, he and his team contributed significantly to the advancement of the noble ideals of the United Nations including his decisive contribution to the independence and liberation of my country, Timor-Leste.

Our people will never forget his decisive support and we wish much success to him and to Mrs. Nane Annan, whom we honor for her contribution to the strengthening the role of women in the world and for the compassion shown to those who suffer.

Madame President
Distinguished delegates,

6-In July of this year, the Prime Minister of the First Constitutional Government, Mari Alkatiri, resigned from his post and a new Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta was sworn in.

7-Since our independence in May 2002 and until July of this year, significant gains were made in the establishment of institutions of the State and in the creation of basic conditions to facilitate investment, national and international.

The current Prime Minister, in his speech to the National Parliament the Prime Minister, José Ramos-Horta, reiterated his determination to implement the following policies

1. Reconciliation
2. Consolidation of security and reform of the defense and security institutions
3. Parliamentary and presidential elections
4. Poverty reduction and economic growth
5. Good governance
6. Finalization of the land border demarcation between the Republic of Indonesia and Timor-Leste
7. Ratification of the Agreement "Greater Sunrise" with Australia

8-The Government will continue to implement the National Development Plan which was initiated by the First Constitutional Government and to accomplish the Millennium the Development Goals as outlined at the Millennium summit in 2002.

In relation to the political plan, the Government in conjunction with the Presidency, the National Parliament, political parties, religious institutions and civil society will hold a national dialogue to recapture the confidence lost by our State institutions.

9- Only yesterday, the Head of Government, Dr. Ramos-Horta, met with representatives of the armed forces that had been dismissed, the petitioners, to once again find a solution which is in conformity with the laws of Timor-Leste and is acceptable to the various parties involved in this situation.

10-The Government of Timor-Leste is determined to proceed with the reform of the security and defense institutions, namely Falintil-FDTL and the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL).

11-The National Police Force of Timor-Leste, an institution, whose mandate is the promotion of law and order disintegrated during the recent crisis. A first group of 25 members of the PNTL resumed duty this week under the mentoring scheme run by the UN Police in Timor-Leste. The reconstitution of the PNTL as a professional non partisan police force is critical to stability.

12-As political leaders of a young nation we acknowledge that not all decisions made were all right and some created discontentment and were the source of the demonstrations in April, May, June and July of this year.

13. We are all interested in a profound and honest reflection on the causes of this crisis. H.E. the President of the Republic Xanana Gusmao, H.E. the Prime Minister Jose Ramos-Horta together with leaders of the Catholic Church and other religious denominations, will co-organize a conference based on our culture and traditional values, whereby various actors, including civil and traditional society will participate.