



# AUSTRALIA



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## **Fifth Committee**

**Monday 7 May 2012**

## **Item 154: Budget for the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste**

**Statement by Emil Stojanovski, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations  
on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand**

**(As delivered)**

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Thank you Mr Chairman

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. I thank the Controller, the Secretariat and the Chair of the ACABQ for their comments and for their introduction of the relevant reports on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

Mr Chairman

CANZ delegations are strong supporters of UNMIT and its vital work in Timor-Leste. We remain fully committed to the promotion of long-term peace and stability in Timor-Leste. The International Stabilisation Force, which is comprised of personnel from New Zealand and Australia, operates to maintain stability and provide a secure environment for the ongoing development of Timor-Leste. It assists and supports the vital work of UNMIT in Timor-Leste.

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Timor-Leste. Our delegations welcome ongoing improvements in the security situation and advancements in the political process in Timor-Leste. This was demonstrated most saliently by the smooth and peaceful conduct of the recent presidential elections. We congratulate the people of Timor-Leste, as well as the Timorese electoral authorities and security agencies on a calm and orderly election, which inspires confidence ahead of the parliamentary elections on 7 July.

Mr Chairman

CANZ deeply appreciates the support provided by UNMIT during the elections process, and the ongoing support it will provide in preparing for the parliamentary elections. The holding of peaceful and successful parliamentary elections will be another key milestone in consolidating peace and security in Timor-Leste.

UNMIT's work for the remainder of this year, as its mandate comes to an end, will be pivotal in ensuring a smooth transition of responsibility for activities to the Government of Timor-Leste. It is in all Member States' interests to ensure that UNMIT is sufficiently resourced to continue its successful implementation of the Joint Transition Plan and the transfer of its responsibilities to key stakeholders. This will be vital for the long-term sustainability of peace, security and strong national institutions in Timor-Leste.

Mr Chairman

CANZ delegations are particularly encouraged by efforts made by UNMIT in training national staff through the National Staff Capacity-Building Project. This worthy project is improving the professional abilities and increasing the future employment prospects of hundreds of Timorese staff, which augurs well for the long-term strength of national institutions and peacebuilding efforts once UNMIT's mandate comes to an end.

We recognise, however, that this has brought with it some staffing challenges, including a vacancy rate of nearly 25 per cent for national officers. We urge UNMIT to intensify its efforts to fill the vacant posts that will be crucial in carrying out the remainder of its important mandate.

Mr Chairman

In closing, CANZ would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms Ameerah Haq, and to congratulate her on her appointment as Under Secretary-General for Field Support. Ms Haq has worked extremely hard to deliver on UNMIT's mandate, and will be leaving Timor-Leste on a high note. Ms Haq's experience in Timor-Leste will be extremely beneficial in addressing the set of challenges in her new role.

We would also like to thank the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Field Support and Management, and all UNMIT personnel, for their efforts in implementing UNMIT's mandate.

CANZ remains fully committed to assisting the Government and people of Timor-Leste as they continue to take responsibility for the development of a peaceful, stable, secure and more prosperous nation.

Thank you Mr Chairman.