



# BRAZIL

**66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Fifth Committee**

**Financing of the United Nations Integrated  
Mission in Timor-Leste**

Statement by Mr. João Augusto Costa Vargas,  
Second Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

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*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Controller, Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, under agenda item 154. I also would like to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Collen Kelapile, for introducing the relevant report of the Advisory Committee.

Later this month, Timor-Leste will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the restoration of its independence. It will be a moment of great symbolism and historic significance. Not only has the country achieved momentous political, institutional, social and economic progress over the past decade, but the ceremonies for this commemoration will be simultaneous with the assumption of a new President, chosen through democratic, peaceful, and orderly elections.

Timorese electoral authorities are to be commended for carrying out the elections so ably. The flawless organization of the second round of the Presidential elections last month has confirmed to us that Timor-Leste has been progressing steadily towards solid and long-lasting stability. Likewise, the PNTL (Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste) has proved that it has definitively and competently taken control of police responsibilities.

UNMIT has played a role of major significance in assisting the Timorese people to develop their institutions and attain the stability that the country currently enjoys. Cooperation between the Mission and the Government has been widely cited as a model for post-conflict UN missions.

The innovative Joint Transition Plan is an example of that. Established between the Government and UNMIT, the Plan demonstrates the degree of cohesion and sophistication they have developed in their cooperation. The Joint Transition Plan also sets out a series of projects that will be of great importance for the continued development of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Chairman,

The budget that has been presented to us reflects the fact that, depending on conditions on the ground and on the views of the Timorese Government regarding the UN presence in the country, UNMIT will begin its

reconfiguration in the second semester. The modalities for the future presence of the UN in Timor-Leste will have to be deliberated on by the Timorese Government. Whatever its format, it will be important that throughout and beyond the reconfiguration period, the UN presence in Timor-Leste has the necessary resources to continue to consolidate the progress made in the country. Moments of transition present particular risks to stability, as we know, and it is important that we bear this in mind as we consider the UNMIT budget.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned with some of the cuts in UNMIT's budget as proposed by the Secretary-General. In particular, the reduction of the resources allocated to some operational areas lacks adequate justification or direct correlation to the situation on the ground. Instead, these reductions have been made on the basis of arbitrary "resource reduction targets".

Brazil wishes to underline that while it is important to pursue efficiencies in peacekeeping missions, these should always be based on the reality on the ground in each mission. The across-the-board cuts in key resourcing areas proposed by the Secretary-General will directly impact the troops on the ground and their ability to carry out their mandated tasks. We note with regret that this kind of reduction seems to have been proposed in most of the peacekeeping budgets before us.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate Brazil's firm commitment to UNMIT and to the UN's efforts in general to support the Timorese in their quest for peace and prosperity.

Thank you very much.