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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MS. MARIA HELENA PIRES

AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

ON AGENDA ITEM "OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE GROUP OF SEVEN  
PLUS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY"  
OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
AT THE 74<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2019  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

It is an honor to speak on the agenda item “Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly” and in favor of, and as co-sponsor of the draft Resolution A/C.6/74/L.2 .

Timor-Leste is one of the founding members of the group of seven plus, or as it is better known small g7+, which was established in 2010 in our capital Dili, and now comprises 20 conflict affected countries or countries which have emerged from conflict.

Member states of the group have come together to advocate for country-led and country owned transitions, towards sustainable peace and resilience as pre-requisites to sustainable development. To this end the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, is an important framework that sets out principles for effective development intervention, and is endorsed by more than 40 countries and organizations.

As a group we are bound by the principle of solidarity. We work together in exchanging and sharing experiences and lessons learnt, as we build resilience

through the rule of law, strong state institutions, good governance, inclusion, dialogue and reconciliation to consolidate peace, and prevent the re-occurrence of conflict, in each of our countries. The group has also recently adopted a platform on management of natural resources for conflict prevention, including the importance of ensuring that all citizens benefit from income derived from the natural resources of each of their respective countries. Member states of the group have benefitted greatly, through this cooperation and peer learning, in the areas of peace and state-building.

As was mentioned by the current Chair of the group, Sierra Leone, the g7+ group was instrumental in advocating for the inclusion of SDG16 on just, peaceful and inclusive societies, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The group has continued to engage widely with other member states of the UN, and has participated and contributed to various UN Forums and discussions, on justice and the rule of law, political transitions, peace and sustainable development. The Eminent Person of the small g7+ and former President of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, has participated in various UN high level events including one organized by the 72<sup>nd</sup> PGA, on sustaining peace.

Member states of the group are also active in furthering implementation of SDG16+ through the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the SDG 16+ Forum. It is also worth noting that many of the g7+ member states have hosted, UN special political and peace keeping missions, and based on these specific experiences, Timor-Leste and some of the member states made submissions to Secretary General Antonio Guterres, as a contribution to the reforms on the peace and security architecture.

Mr Chairman

General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1994, refers to the granting of observer status in the General Assembly to “States and to those inter-governmental organizations, whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly”. Timor-Leste believes that the small g7+, as a treaty governed inter-governmental organization, with legal personality, whose activities are centered on the pursuit of peace and sustainable development, are most relevant to the General Assembly.

As such we hope that the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee can consider positively, the group's request for observer status.