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STATEMENT BY Н.E. DR. MAKI 4LKATIRI

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AT THE 6 r" SESSION

OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement delivered by H.E.Pri.me Minister Mari Alkatiri Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
High-Le"el Plenary Meeting uj the General Assembly 14-16 September 2005

Co-Presidents,
Distinguished Delegates
Excellences
Ladies and Gentlemen

Before I begin my speech, I would like to express the solidarity of the;Timorese People with the victims of Katrina and with the American People.

It is my great pleasure to be here today to share with you the progress and the steps taken so far in Timor-Leste towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Because of the time limit I decided to bring here some of these experiences of Timor- Leste, the youngest member of the United Nations.

As a new country and in spite of having embarked on this journey towards the Millennium Development Goals later than other countries we have the utmost confidence that we will walk alongside our friends in achieving these objectives.

'i he history of Timor-Leste has shown us that the spirit and dedication of the Timorese people are not easily defeated. The fundamental values of peace, security and freedom ensured by the United Nations are also those held dearly by the Timorese, reflecting our strength in building up Timor -Leste to become a strong and

sustainable nation.

In these three short years , as a sovereign country we have made significant contributions towards the Millennium Development Goals.

health, education,. gender equality and good governance remain among the key priorities for the Government of Timor-Leste.

Our Constitution expressly states the need to confer special protection to children by the family, the community and the State, recognizing the child as an individual entitled to special individual rights. It also referred the entitlement of the child to rights enshrined in International Treaties and Conventions already ratified by Timor-Leste in December 2002.

The Government continues to prioritize the social sectors in line with the high interest expressed by the citizens during the development process of the National Development Plan. Thirty six per cent (36) of the National Budget is allocated to education and health. We have increas41 12 per cent in education and 46 per cent in health in this fiscal year's National Budget.

The Government embarked on the Sector Investment. Program (II) in August 2004, aimed at enhancing coordination with our Development Partners, planning of activities and facilitating the effective use of resources to achieve the goals of the National Development Plan.

The countrys health indicators are the lowest in East Asia. The Government is making efforts in order that all health facilities procure and support the distribution of essential drugs and equipment for antenatal and

Projects addressing grass roots needs in education 'including training of school principals and teachers, development of an active and participatory learning, promotion of accountability, democratic decision making and transparency through the effective utilization of the school budget, the establishment of Parent Teacher Associations and the development of models for school based management are currently operational.

The Education Management Information System (EMIS) has been established containing information 00 approximately 90% of all primary schools in Timor-Leste.

We are working to institute free school feeding to improve the n ц tr,tional standard of school children to ensure their productivity in learning.

'he (.Government is focusing on skills s education l ЪГ adolescents. preventive education of I IIV/AIU5 through strengthening the capacity of young people, communities and service providers to ensure informed ^ c P• Y Y ^P p ^ decision making and appropriate skills that would contribute to preventing HIV infection among young people in and out of school.'-

A National Youth Policy is being developed by the Government and supported by UNICEF and the World Bank.

Timor-Leste is deeply committed to creating a legal framework which comprises mechanisms respecting the draft Penal (:ode and the draft Civil and Procedure Codes to protect children, such as criminal responsibility at the age of Ib, infanticide, abandonment, rights of the child as well as protecting measures towards the integrity and healthy development of the child and so on.

Good governance is also a priority for Timor-Leste. Transparency and accountability are two important factors for democracy. It is also a means to bring citizens to participate actively in the development of the country: Timor-Cede has taken measures to prevent corruption and mismanagement.

My Government and our people are fully committed to ensuring that resources are used as efficiently as possible. A Petroleum Fund, aimed at managing and avoiding mismanagement and corruption of the revenues from the oil and gas has been established, following wide consultation with civil society and the most important institutions of the country.

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The Provedor dos - Direitos Humanos e da Justié.a (the Ombudsperson) has been sworn in and has launched its activities for the current year.

The Office of the Inspector General has launched a website with summary reports of its investigations underlining the Governments dedication to transparency. It is another institution that promotes transparency and prevents corruption.

'l'he Government of Timor-Leste has taken measures aimed at improving the justice system in order to ensure access to justice for all and to prohibit impunity from taking root.
With the new Civil Service Act in place we are working hard to instililues of excellence and integrity.-

Gender and equality is a principle that is promoted widely in the country. There are more than a third (l/)

of women in our National Parliament, seven in the Government, othx;r important institutions and as head of a community level authorities structures, for the first time.

Timor-Leste is aware on the need and importance of international and regional cooperation to contribute for peace, stability and economic. development of the world. It is in this context that we are member of Asian Regional Forum and other international and regional organizations.

We arc also aware that to reach the Millennium Development Goals we must have the capacity for the execution of the programmes aimed to reach these goals. So, institutional building is of paramount importance.

Finally, I would like to express, on behalf of the Timorese people and my own, our sincere gratitude to H. E. the Secretary General of the United Nations, our friend Kofi Annan for the support that has been given tO. our people.

Thank you!

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