



**Development Partners' Meeting 2010 -  
Dili, 7 April 2010  
Statement by the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Ministers and members of State Institutions,

Distinguished Members of the Development Community of Timor-Leste,

Representatives of Church and Civil Society,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all Germany aligns itself with the Statement of the Presidency of the European Union.

Please allow me to congratulate and thank the organisers, the Government and State Institutions of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the United Nations and the World Bank, for organising this important event.

I have the honour to attend this meeting on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Ambassador to Timor-Leste. The German Government wishes to commend the Government, the State Institutions and the People of Timor-Leste for the progress achieved over the last years towards the goal of consolidating peace, stability and democratic governance, and for the relentless efforts undertaken towards achieving further and sustainable development.

In particular, Germany welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Government of Timor-Leste on the visions and plans which the Prime Minister presented earlier today. Germany is fully committed to the Principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. Therefore, we want our support to be in line with the Timorese priorities as defined in the latest Strategic Plan.

Germany has been an active partner in development cooperation with Timor-Leste since the outset, having contributed to date a total sum of almost 45 million EUR in development cooperation, and Germany intends to continue its bilateral cooperation, but also its support to non-governmental organisations and particularly the development policy dialogue with Timor-Leste, led by your Government.

Against this background, this delegation is delighted to announce that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany intends to commit an additional sum of 6.5 million EUR to our technical development cooperation with Timor-Leste. This contribution focuses on Germany's ongoing support in the fields of Conflict Prevention and Management, Integrated Rural Development and the Study and Expert Fund and is in line with the priorities as defined by the Government of Timor-Leste.

First, Germany will commit a further 3 million EUR to the *Peace Fund*, set up by the German Government in 2008. This fund aims to finance projects and measures that target especially,

but not exclusively, urban and rural areas with the goal of supporting young women and men in developing applicable basic approaches with respect to the prevention of violence, the transformation of conflicts as well as reconciliation and peace education efforts to pave the way to a sustainable livelihood. Given the international interest in this field, Germany would like to reiterate that this fund welcomes contributions made by other interested donors in order to facilitate an international division of labour in this field, to reduce transaction costs and to avoid donor overlaps.

Secondly, Germany has decided to commit an additional 2.5 million EUR to its ongoing efforts in the field of promoting *Integrated Rural Development*. Efforts in this field with the common goal of increasing productivity and therefore incomes in rural areas include support for the State Agricultural College in Natarbora, further training of the staff of the newly set up agricultural advisory service and enhanced participatory village development planning.

The final tranche of Germany's most recent commitment of 1 million EUR is dedicated to topping up the existing *Studies and Experts Fund*. This fund finances both the deployment of experts as well as the conduct of research studies and evaluations in areas of critical importance to bilateral development cooperation projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These substantial commitments on the part of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are complemented by our ongoing projects in the fields of *Youth Employment*, our *Trilateral Cooperation with Indonesia*, efforts towards *Transitional Justice and Mediation*, and – last but not least – our successful cooperation in the field of *Maritime Transport*.

“Goodbye Conflict, Welcome Development” has been an accurate slogan for Timor-Leste. In leaving conflict behind and delivering on development, it is of utmost importance for the Government of Timor-Leste to continue to address the underlying causes of social grievances and conflicts. Further reforms of the security sector, sustainable measures aiming at poverty reduction and job creation for Timor-Leste's young population and further capacity-building within the Judiciary therefore ought to be made a priority. Germany is confident that Timor-Leste's praiseworthy progress in democratic consolidation, as exemplified by the successful conclusion of the local elections in October 2009 and the strengthened role of the National Parliament, shall continue and that this year's district and municipal elections will be conducted in the same positive spirit.

Indeed, as your young democracy tackles the challenges that lie ahead, it can be sure of Germany's ongoing support and keen interest in consolidating peace- and state-building measures, in fostering equitable economic development and in delivering tangible benefits for the environment but first and foremost for the people of Timor-Leste. In this context, Germany wishes to also congratulate the Government of Timor-Leste on the initiative of hosting the *International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding*, co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which will take place in Dili over the coming days. This initiative provides an excellent forum for sharing best practices and lessons learnt amongst partners in the international community.

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming that Germany, along with its partners in the European Union, is proud and stands ready to continue to accompany Timor-Leste on its challenging path towards stability and development.

Thank you.

Dili, 7 April 2010