

2010 Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting (TLDPM) Summary Notes

Morning Session Plenary Discussion

Development Partners (DP) from about 30 countries participated in the 2010 Timor-Leste Development Partners' Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste. Most expressed welcoming remarks and congratulated the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) for hosting the TLDPM. In addition, DPs reiterated their commitment to continue providing technical and financial support to GoTL in its efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Lead discussant statements:

UNMIT SRSG - The SRSG noted the good will of the Development Partners in Timor-Leste (TL) as well as the United Nations. The SRSG shared that the UN Security Council committed to re-extend the mandate of UNMIT in TL until February 2011 so as to keep building capacity of national counterparts in preparation of the UNMIT phase out expected to take place by the end of 2012. On behalf of the United Nations, the SRSG congratulated the Government for its efforts in maintaining internal peace and security. However, issues of state fragility and the continuous needs of the country point to a need to maintain support to key areas such as peace and security, democratic governance, and socioeconomic development. It was underlined that by the end of 2010, UNPOL will have handed over all districts to PNTL with fully operational logistical support. The SRSG praised the positive measures undertaken by the government in setting up the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and in developing the 2010 and 2011 National Priorities and the National Strategic Development Plan (SDP). To this effect, the SRSG invited development partners to align their support and assistance to the priorities identified within the Government's strategic plan. Education as well as human and institutional capacity was deemed as a precondition to building long-term peace and prosperity. Moreover, in line with the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and the Paris Declaration (PD) principles, the SRSG invited all cooperating partners to continue providing their technical and financial assistance in a predictable and sustainable manner.

World Bank stressed that TL's history far outweighs its size and the testimonies delivered in pursuing freedom and development. The Petroleum Fund requires proper strategic management to contribute to national development. It was reiterated that the population of TL should benefit from the Petroleum fund, and positive remarks were expressed concerning the draft strategic Work Plan. He called upon the government of TL to demonstrate positive political will, transparency, building capacity of its nation's population and genuine commitment. He remarked that monitoring and evaluation should be a prerequisite for sustainable development. The World Bank also welcomed the establishment of a Court of Accounts and stated support to the Government in deploying adequate resources to meaningfully invest in its youth.

Asian Development Bank congratulated the government on the progress made in its nation building process, economic growth and delivery of essential services. ADB expressed that TL has benefited from robust growth over several years, political stability, and new large financial flows from oil funds which can now contribute to medium and long-term national efforts in reducing poverty. ADB called upon the government to save money by building roads and water supply systems that don't deteriorate by putting in place effective maintenance systems such as China and Vietnam are doing. ADB encouraged the government of TL to learn from successful macro-economic strategies and policies of other Asian countries and advised the Government not to rely on crash transfers stemming from oil. ADB encouraged the government to not only reflect on experiences from other Asian countries in the process of adopting sound policies supporting investments, but also to invest in human capital and tax public infrastructure delivery so as to create a broader tax base. Flexibility, pragmatism and humility were deemed key factors when developing strategies to reduce poverty.

Plenary Discussion:

Australia noted that Australia is a close neighbor of TL with a strong developed economy and is naturally a significant development partner. Australia mentioned that Timor-Leste's development is in the interest of Australia and its efforts in tackling organized crime, money laundering, people smuggling and unregulated finishing. Australia called upon the government of TL to embrace genuine partnership with its development partners rather simply relying on their financial assistance. Australia reaffirmed its commitment to uphold the Paris Declaration, Accra Action Agenda and Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations. Australia suggested the development of a medium term economic framework to guide the implementation of the first five years of the National Strategic Development Plan.

China praised the progress made by the government in achieving economic growth and maintaining peace. China acknowledged the country's strides in improving the agriculture sector, increasing the non-oil economy, and building capacity of human resources. Within this framework, China noted how they have contributed to Timorese economic growth by signing an agreement of 3M Yen in aid to TL; constructing the Presidential Palace; and building 100 houses for military as well as a primary school; signing an agreement to promote cultivation on new varieties of hybrid rice; providing more than 50 Timorese with specific trainings in China; and providing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with furniture.

European Commission praised the Government's efforts in maintaining peace, stability and economic growth while mentioning that the country still needed to overcome important challenges such as socioeconomic development in rural areas; private sector and oil sector development; and reinforcement of good governance principles such as accountability and transparency of public finances. The EC praised the recent establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission and also committed EU support in supporting government's policies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the empowerment of women, especially in communities. Moreover, the EC committed support to reform the security sector in particular the resumption process of PNTL from UNPOL. Finally, the EC reaffirmed its commitment to abide by the Paris Principles and AAA and called upon the government of TL to embrace true accountability of the CAVR on issues of serious crimes and impunity.

Germany welcomed the Strategic Development Plan and pledged commitment in support of its implementation. More specifically, Germany announced that they would provide Euro 45 million for technical development interventions; peace building strategies; rural development programs; and education activities. Germany called on other DPs to be willing to strengthen coordination mechanisms so as to avoid overlaps and maximize impact of development strategies and utilization of resources. Germany expressed positive remarks on the peaceful Suco elections hoping that municipal elections will be conducted in the same spirit. Germany he expressed that the TLDPM was a good opportunity to share information and experiences.

Japan praised the government's efforts in promoting development. Japan shared that the President' and Prime Minister's visits to Japan have enabled and strengthened friendly relationships between the two countries. Within this framework, Japan mentioned that their financial and technical assistance to TL will be assured even beyond 2012. Japan pointed out the main key thematic areas supported by Japan, namely institutional building; infrastructures; rural development; and peace building. Moreover, support to the Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs, and to the University of Timor-Leste will continue in the years to come.

New Zealand stressed on the importance of maintaining peace and security for the development of Timor-Leste. New Zealand's alignment to TL's national development plan was deemed a pre-condition for further assistance. New Zealand's emphasized their assistance to the security sector through the deployment of Military and Police officers providing mentoring to PNTL and FDDTL officials. New Zealand also congratulated the Government for its achievements in relocating all the Internally Displace People and conducting peaceful Suco elections.

Portugal acknowledged the progress achieved by the Government of Timor-Leste in terms of economic and social development. Emphasis was also stressed on the numerous challenges that the Government still needs to overcome, especially in the process of strengthening democracy and rule of law, and ensuring long-term peace and stability. Portugal praised the Government of Timor-Leste for the development of the first national strategic plan, in line with the aid effectiveness principles stressed in the Paris and Accra declarations. Portugal also stressed on the need to strengthen donors' coordination so as to maximize impact of development cooperation interventions among cooperating partners. Finally, Portugal reiterated their support to the implementation of the TL's strategic plan in the years to come.

Philippines congratulated the Government of Timor-Leste for its achievement in consolidating peace. Furthermore, Philippines expressed their willingness in aligning development cooperation support to the national priorities of the government of Timor-Leste.

Singapore welcomed the positive developments made by the government of Timor-Leste in achieving peace and improving economic development. Singapore shared that they are supporting TL in the security sector and have deployed police officers to support PNTL provided four helicopters. Singapore restated the country's support in keep building human resource capacity, addressing climate change issues, guaranteeing food security and fostering sustainable environment. Finally, Singapore stressed that the upcoming visit of Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs in TL might contribute in the efforts of strengthening ties between the two countries.

UNMIT DSRSG praised the Government's commitment in developing and implementing the National Priorities and the National Strategic Plan. The DSRSG noted the positive progress in the closure of the IDP camps and in the conduction of peaceful Suco elections. The DSRSG congratulated the positive steps undertaken by the government in allocating funds to widows and the elderly but expressed concern that this initiative could create a long term dependency on the government. The DSRSG also congratulated the Government for the establishment of the Civil Service Commission which now plays an important role in ensuring transparency in public administration. The DSRSG encouraged the government to invest in private sector and agriculture opposed to dependency on the oil revenue. The DSRSG also stressed on the need mainstream gender equality in the Government's policies and interventions. The DSRSG stressed on the financial gaps that UN faces in the implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework in saying words to the effect of '*if UN has to support the Government, it is expected that cooperating partners will scale up their financial assistance to the UN*'. Petroleum funds were deemed important but not the only resources to be sought in the development of the Country. The DSRSG stressed on the importance of the language in the nation building process.

The United States of America reiterated support to the Paris Declaration principles. The USA emphasized the need to strengthen coordination among donors and between donors and the Government. Support to the implementation of the 2010 National Priorities was also underlined.

SEPI mentioned that gender focal points have now been nominated in all ministries. SEPI advocates for women empowerment in all areas and especially service delivery. SEPI shared that they prepared and submitted the report of CEDAW to the Committee on CEDAW, thereafter participated in the dissemination of the CEDAW concluding observations and recommendations.

Rede Feto emphasized the need for the government to invest in programs that empower women economically to take up active roles in the community. Rede Feto welcomed the fund provided to widows and elderly and highlighted the challenges observed in the manner PNTL are handling cases of domestic violence. Rede Feto expressed concern on trafficking on human in Timor-Leste especially women and lack of proper laws to curb the vice. Rede Feto called upon the government to investigate all cases of inequality against women especially at the place of work noting that women earn less than men for equal work and have no maternity leave.

FONGTIL mentioned the development of economic and social rights is a matter of concern calling on the government to take positive steps to make improvements. FONGTIL expressed concerns on cases of human rights violations that have not been investigated. FONGTIL also noted that Timorese population should be given the opportunity to participate in decision making and development programs to achieve good governance. FONGTIL called upon the government to consider consultation from the civil society when preparing the state budget and requested for all Parliament laws to be drafted in Tetun so that all Timorese can understand.

*Plenary discussion resumed in the afternoon. The session was chaired by the **Minister of Finance (MoF)** who acknowledged the importance of the meeting as a means to bridge gaps between Timor-Leste and the development partners.*

Brazil stressed the importance of Portuguese inheritance in Timor-Leste and emphasized the sentiment of solidarity Brazil has towards Timor-Leste. Brazil congratulated the government for the Strategic Development Plan and agreed that efforts made by Development Partners should be aligned with the guidelines and timeframe defined by the government of Timor-Leste. Brazil highlighted that Brazilian cooperation focus more in capacity-building rather than the transferring of funds and its programmes focus on fundamental areas such as education, justice and security, as well as food security, infrastructures and support to small businesses and enterprises. Brazil congratulated the Government of Timor-Leste for the successful Suco elections held in October 2009 and for the work of the Civil Service Commission.

Norway informed all about the support Norway has been giving to the management of the Petroleum Fund and highlighted the importance for the petroleum revenue to be used wisely and in a transparent way for the benefit of this and future generations. Norway referred to unemployment as a major concern and stressed that more assistance has to be directed to the rural areas. In terms of gender equality, Norway agreed Timor-Leste is on the right track as demonstrated by the number of women in the National Parliament and in the Government. Norway reiterated the support of Norway to UNMIT and UN agencies and noted that the process of reduction of UN presence in Timor-Leste should be accompanied by a progressive transfer of responsibilities and be focused on preparedness of national counterparts rather than a time-focused process. Norway reinforced the long-term commitment Norway has with the Government of Timor-Leste and the Memorandum of Understanding (2008-2012), defining strategic areas of cooperation namely in the sectors of democracy and good governance and the rule of law and sustainable management of natural resources. Norway finally noted the continued support of the Norway Refugee Council and of Bishop Gunar in assisting the CAVR and highlighted that Norway is looking forward to the National Parliament consideration on a follow-up mechanism.

Cuba focused its presentation on practical results of the Cuban cooperation with Timor-Leste, namely in the health and education sectors. In the area of health Cuba mentioned the support of 200 Cuban doctors and medical experts in area of pediatrics, healthcare provided in households (home visits), support to pregnant women and new born babies as well as surgical procedures, microbiology and laboratory tests. Furthermore, Cuba is also providing medical training to Timorese students. In the area of education, Cuba highlighted the contribution of Cuba to the goal of eradicating illiteracy in the country, noting that Atauro was already declared an area free of illiteracy and the goal is that soon the Oecussi enclave will receive the same status.

The Secretary of State (SoSS) for Security highlighted the progress registered in the security sector and the period of calm and stability that Timor-Leste is going through. The SoSS welcomed the approval by the National Parliament of the National Security Law which clearly defines rules and responsibilities in terms of community police, and which should contribute to promote accountability and transparency in the security sector. The SoSS stressed the professionalism of PNTL and the way it has positively been responding to challenges; he stressed alleged cases of Human Rights violations are punctual and should not be generalized. The SoSS finally mentioned the cooperation in the security sector has been very smooth; following objectives established by the state and respecting Timorese culture and values.

The SoS for Defence began by commenting on how the recent successful recruitment process for the Armed Forces went smoothly, with the assistance of Portugal and civilian oversight of Ministry of Defence (MoD) personnel. The SoSD discussed the recent training the Armed Forces have received, namely in human rights and media and the several investments in F-FDTL infrastructure. Finally, SoSD welcomed the recent approval by the National Parliament of the National Security Law, the Internal Security Law and the National Defence Law.

The Minister of Health (MoH) highlighted several progresses have been made in recent years and stressed the need of continuous investment in the health sector. MoH remarked that the funds committed should be effectively and efficiently used by focusing on government priorities, particularly investing in infrastructures, as good infrastructure is essential to the good performance of the MoH.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) observed that the number of poor people in Timor-Leste continues to increase and that a major challenge is to assist these people and meet their aspirations to get out of poverty; for this a major investment in agriculture is essential. MoAF thanked all development countries who are investing in agriculture sector.

The Minister of Economy and Development (MoED) reminded the mandate of the MoED as stated in the IV Constitutional Government constitutive Law, particularly its mandate to support the development of private sector as a means to create jobs and foster economy and development and asked development partners support in this goal.

The Representative of Youth stressed that to guarantee sustainable development, the Government of Timor-Leste needs to act in strategic areas namely, to have a policy less dependent on oil revenue, improve infra-structures all over the country, accelerate the decentralization process and, combat corruption and nepotism.

The Minister of Education (MoE) highlighted the significant improvements in the quality of the education sector, which have occurred over recent years, particularly after the approval of the National Education Policy. The MoE is currently working on evaluation of learning outcomes, investing in teacher training and in getting a better student to teacher ratio. MoE highlighted the Timorese complex linguistic reality and stressed that the challenge of mastering the two official languages is very striking and more resources are needed to achieve this goal. MoE underscored the disparity between urban and rural areas and mentioned that the MoE will be using radio and TV to provide people in the districts with access to quality education. MoE also mentioned that the technical and vocational education area needs more support. In terms of higher education he highlighted the recent approved UNTL Charter and finally in the area of non-formal education, MoE reaffirmed the goal of declaring Timor-Leste free of illiteracy in the years to come. MoE finally referred to the area of Culture and the approval of the National Cultural Policy as a major accomplishment to the preservation of the Timorese cultural patrimony and mentioned UNESCO has taken initiative to lobby potential donors the construction of a national museum.

The Minister of Justice (MoJ) said development partners should align their projects in the justice sector through the Justice Coordination Council. MoJ highlighted the importance of

strengthening the formal sector of justice (for instance with the development of the High Administrative Tax and Audit Court and the Criminal Police).

Closing Remarks

The Prime-Minister (PM) started by thanking all participants for their interventions and reinforced the idea that the success of Timor-Leste is and will always be part of the success of its development partners. Recognizing the shortcomings and acknowledging some mistakes that might have been made, the Prime-Minister reiterated his wish to seek successful solutions to reduce poverty in Timor-Leste and stressed that a new chapter in the history of Timor-Leste has started with the presentation of the Strategic Development Plan which reflects the vision and dreams of the Timorese people. The Prime-Minister asked development partners to align their priorities with those established in the Strategic Development Plan and reminded that even if financial and technical assistance are important, moral support is also essential. The PM concluded by thanking the organizers and the partners for their assistance, commitment and convergence of minds demonstrated in the meeting.