

NEW URBAN AGENDA URBAN AGENDA CASE OF EAST TIMOR

Mr.Co-Chairman, Excellencies, honourable delegates, ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of East Timor recognizes that urbanization is a tool towards economic and social development for our country as whole. East Timor is small nation with a population now over 1 million people and moreover free and independent only since 2002.

East Timor has a general infrastructure deficit. Especially Dili has not been able to deliver adequate municipal services nor deliver on urban environmental management. The deficit on water supply, mobility and public amenities for health and education remains significant in East Timor's small towns and rural areas. Traditional houses are not adequate in relation to minimum standards; new housing stock is often a poor quality and at time built in hazard zones or environmentally sensitive areas.

Timor Leste aspires sustainable and balanced urban development, strongly binding urban and rural areas and with a rational use or conservation of natural resources and multimodal city network, so as to promote effective urban-rural economic and territorial linkages. Rural settlements should see development without losing social and culture heritage and the way of life of the communities. The government should reach out to people to self-build and organize progress through community initiative or through cooperatives.

The government initiated administrative decentralization and is setting up municipalities. A strategic plan for East Timor and its reconstruction is, being finalized. Planning in secondary cities is ongoing. A comprehensive Act on spatial planning is forthcoming. A National Housing policy was approved already in 2007.

Timor Leste requires a framework for environmental protection and heritage preservation. A basic law on the environment is already in place, providing both national standards in general but also creating a national park.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Clarifying our starting point, I set forth the simultaneous tasks ahead. Knowing that this is an obvious difficulty we'd like to think there is also an opportunity, if we can collect knowledge from other experiences and joined-up thinking with other countries, such as occurs at this forum, sharing different realities but common problems.

The new SDG11 call for our action " make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" In the target under the means for implementation, we note the call towards " supporting positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning " There is also the target to " support least development countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient building utilizing local materials".

Timor Leste looks forward to Habitat III's in Quito "New urban Agenda" and we strongly support a new urban agenda to achieve sustainable urbanization and prosperous human settlements also in Timor Leste.