



STATEMENT BY

**MS. REGINA DE JESUS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR TREASURY
MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FFD4) – SECOND SESSION**

GENERAL DEBATE

**Conference Room 4, UNHQ, New York
03 December 2024**

Check Against Delivery

Distinguished Co-Chairs, thank you for giving me the floor.

Many developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), are facing growing SDG financing gap. Furthermore, it is worsened by a lack of access to affordable finance and debt distress. The FFD4 will be a chance to correct course if we want to achieve the SDGs by the 2030 deadline. Only an urgent, large-scale, and sustainable investment can help small countries like Timor-Leste achieve our global goals.

Innovative financial architectures are crucial for international development cooperation to address issues like poverty, inequality, climate change, and health. Significant financial investment is important in areas such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and environmental protection, which can only be realized through dedicated funding from various sources, including governments, the private sector, and international organizations. Without sufficient funding, progress toward the SDGs will be significantly hampered.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

For Timor-Leste, financing for development is crucial to address pressing development needs, particularly in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic diversification, the latter being a strategy to achieve sustainable growth and the SDGs.

Allow me to highlight some innovative approaches to financing for development in Timor-Leste:

1. Timor-Leste's economy is heavily reliant on income from offshore oil and gas production. To address this challenge, Timor-Leste is implementing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to manage funding across different sectors aiming for a more holistic approach to development.
2. The INFF seeks to mobilize funds from various sources beyond the Petroleum Fund, including foreign remittances, private sector investment, and international development aid.
3. To address the development gap, Timor-Leste has sought to diversify its funding sources and investing in climate-resilient projects, with the aim to build a more sustainable economy and better prepare for future economic shocks.

Foreign development assistance plays a vital role in supporting the development goals of recipient countries. However, for this assistance to be effective and sustainable, it is essential that it aligns with the national priorities of the recipient country. The principles of country leadership and ownership are fundamental in ensuring that foreign development assistance is aligned with national priorities. This means that the recipient country takes the lead in identifying its development needs, setting priorities, and implementing programs.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

The outcome document of FFD4 should include urgent actions to help the LDCs and SIDS achieve sustainable development, inter alia:

- Reforms of the International Financial Architecture adapted to the specific needs of SIDS to help bridge the gap in development finance.
- Increasing access to concessional finance, such as loans with low interest rates.
- Innovative Financing Mechanisms, such as affordable and long-term financial loan mechanisms.
- Assistance for SIDS to diversify their economies and strengthen state and productive capacities to achieve sustainable development and resilient prosperity.

Distinguish Co-chairs,

To conclude, Timor-Leste reiterates its commitment to engage constructively in all conference preparatory activities, including the intergovernmental consultations of its outcome document, aiming to identify concrete actions to close the financing gap for SDGs and prioritize the voices of the developing countries in international financial institutions, to achieve transformative change towards the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.