



**Permanent Mission of the  
Democratic Republic of Timor Leste to the United Nations**

**Statement of H.E. Maria Helena Pires  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

**ON THE CONSIDERATION OF TIMOR LESTE'S GRADUATION FROM  
THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS**

**at the Expert Group Meeting of the CDP, 2nd of February 2018  
New York**

Mr Chairperson, distinguished members of the Committee

Timor Leste is pleased to participate in this Expert Group Meeting of the CDP, on the preparation of the 2018 Triennial Review of the LDC category and share our views in this regard.

As a post conflict state with a young democracy that achieved full self government only in 2002, fully engaged in state and nation building, the consolidation of our institutions of state and indeed our sovereignty, it is a privilege to be able to engage with the CDP in this very important exercise.

Unfortunately, budgetary constraints prevent Timor Leste's delegation from including representatives from our relevant Ministries, but the Mission stands ready to engage with the EGM in this meeting and will endeavor to obtain any additional information if it is required.

My delegation would like to state at the outset that the Government of Timor Leste does not believe that this is the right time for Timor Leste to be considered for graduation from the Least Developed Country category.

We would like to underline 3 fundamental considerations in this respect.

**Firstly, the data shows that Timor Leste is only narrowly over the required thresholds for graduation with regards to the HAI and does not appear to meet the income only GNI threshold, and of particular concern to the government is Timor Leste's continued economic vulnerability.**

The Human Asset Index is 66.6 against a threshold of 66. Timor Leste therefore only just meets the criteria, which is not a strong foundation for graduation. Although Timor Leste has made considerable gains in the health and education sectors, there remains a crucial human capital challenge. About one quarter of children face stunting (2014) and 40% of the population are without adequate sanitation

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The Economic



Non oil sector	1,194	1,415	1,454	1,609	1,701
GDP per capita (\$)	5,767	4,770	3,336	2,502	1,988
Oil sector	4,735	3,575	2,136	1,205	646
Non oil sector	1,032	1,195	1,199	1,296	1,342

Source: National account 2016 ([http://www.statistics.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/01\\_TL\\_NA\\_2000\\_2016\\_Publication\\_171202\\_90.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/01_TL_NA_2000_2016_Publication_171202_90.pdf))

As has been the trend in recent years,

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The country has suffered significant losses to its land

