

Address by His Excellency José Ramos Horta
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; former President of Timor Leste; and, Special
Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau

I am honoured by the invitation to participate at the opening segment of the First Annual Session of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The initiative of conducting annual substantive sessions starting this June is a positive step forward by the Peacebuilding Commission. Such an engagement will indeed enhance the PBC's role of advocacy, resource mobilisation and engaging partnerships not only for building peace but also for sustaining it. Further, this session should provide a valuable forum of sharing and exchanges aimed at enhancing the invaluable contribution of the Peacebuilding Commission to the agenda of peace and security of the United Nations.

The context of sustainable peacebuilding is relevant also in the case of Timor Leste, particularly from independence through to state building. Further, as I prepare this week to end my mission as Special Representative of the Secretary General in Guinea-Bissau, a country on the PBC agenda since 2007, the experience of the past 18 months, a reasonably short period of time that country have served to reinforce my conviction that the PBC should be called upon to enhance its role in ensuring timely and sustainable support for peacebuilding particularly where there are challenges of instability and weak delivery capacities of State institutions. The legitimate expectations of the people impacted by conflict-related hardship, especially vulnerable groups including women, youth and children, must be satisfied.

Since its establishment in December 2005, the PBC, also through the mechanism of the PBF and supported by the PBSO, has worked hard to perform its role not only as an intergovernmental body mobilizing financial and technical resources but also providing advice and strategies for post-conflict recovery and focusing international attention on reconstruction, institution building and sustainable development.

Further, the PBC has added value to the UN in advancing its peace and development agenda. This the PBC has done, among others, through pooling together, through short to medium to long term, the broad capacities and

experiences of the United Nations in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping, respect for human rights, the rule of law, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and longterm development. Consequently, the multidimensional engagement by the PBC has seen the body involved actively in diverse ways to address

Further, a sustained and visible engagement of the PBC is important particularly where there are abrupt national challenges and processes, including unconstitutional changes of power, which should actually be interpreted as the context where peacebuilding efforts are most urgent and required, including through PBC engagement, rather than where sanctionary measures ought to be administered. A PBC beneficiary country's priorities are not bound by time or circumstance. They remain the same and represent a political crisis of

Dear Amb Patriota, Ambassadors, ASG Judy Chen-Hopkins,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I am here in dual capacity, as the still SRSG for GB and still former PR of TL allow me to refer specifically to Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste.

The newly elected President of Guinea-Bissau H. E. Mr. Jose Mario Vaz, (or Jomav as he is widely known), has just been sworn-in this morning in Bissau.

Soon after, within a few days, a newly elected Government, led by Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira, will be sworn in.

In the last few weeks before and after the announcement of the election results, I had several meetings with both leaders, together, and separately. I also had a number of meetings with the Defense Forces leadership, including Gen. Antonio Injay.

I left reassured that this is a turning point in Guinea-Bissau tortuous path since independence 40 years ago.

There is much to celebrate but there is much to be done in coming days, weeks, months and years.

There are salaries to be paid to the civil service roughly US\$7 million a month. There are many months in arrears.

UNIOGBIS has drafted and discussed with Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira a strategic document aiming at rebuilding the institutions of the State; Prime Minister DSP fully endorses this strategy.

UNIOGBIS has proposed the creation of a Strategic Planning Agency modeled after the very prestigious Malaysian one. This think-tank group, working under the leadership of the Prime Minister, was made operational last September thanks to contributions from PBF and DPA. PM DSP wants to continue to build on with this think-tank with adjustments.

UNDP, World Bank, ADB, working with national counterparts, as well as with ECOWAS, has been active in preparing a pledging conference.

I hope that the international community will do its part and will not fail the people of GuineaBissau.

In our current turbulent world where there is hardly any good news to report on, GuineaBissau is a "success story" in terms of how, with little cost to the international community, we have been able to steer the country back to Constitutional Democratic Order. There was no need for a ~~Peace~~ Keeping Force and we did what the UNSC told us to ~~do~~ more with existing resources.

However, this "success story" can be a short-lived one if we, as international community, fail to respond to the needs and modest expectations of the people.

Timor-Leste is a better known "success story" even if modestly the leaders of the country continue to call it "fragile State" which it is indeed.

There are no shortcuts to peace, nation building and State building. First requirement, is national ownership and strong, credible national leadership. The international community cannot stand in for national actors and leaders.

In the case of Timor-Leste, which experienced ~~several~~ setbacks in 2006, national credible national actors and democratically elected leader were able to pull together, living t needp.d fol 3TJ 0 (n)8adec -0.006 fa9(l)Tw 3.624 0 l 12(ni-Tw 0.i)-8(wea(th)op be an2(o)8ontimui mwn theelectio9(t)9(t T)8(he)4(9)8(hi)g(th)8(e)4(s)8(t)]TJ

l(ib)9(o)th((c)4(a)12(sa)124(,)62 t)9(he)4(di)9(n)tx

