



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-  
LESTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

110<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

International Organization for Migration

Delivered by Mr. Francisco Fernandes

Mr. Chairman,

Director-General,

Timor-Leste welcomes the report of the Director-General and we share his vision regarding the need of strengthening this Organization. We commend Mr. Antonio Vitorino for his leading' efforts. IOM's importance is irrefutable, having assisted, as mentioned in the report, more than 30 million beneficiaries last year only.

Migrants continue to face discrimination and human rights abuses worldwide. No one could imagine the pain one must feel when leaving its country behind and then finding along the way to the search of a better life, a journey full of suffering, from smuggling, sexual violence, discrimination, and so on.

Countries have undertaken clear commitments to protect all human beings and together with IOM, we should be able to ensure that no one is left behind. In our understanding, tackling these world challenges can only be done through multilateralism and we encourage all States to continue to be engaged in constructive dialogues.

Mr. Chairman,

My country is no stranger to the issues we are addressing here today. In 2006, Timor-Leste had almost 15% of its population being forced to leave their homes. During that time, IOM's assistance was essential, the Organization provided us with support for the management of all IDP camps and has help developing a National Exit Strategy.

Political struggles are no longer the only cause of migration. Throughout the last decades, the international community was hit in the face with the severe adverse impacts of climate change in the enjoyment of all human rights. This

is a global phenomenon that is, nevertheless, felt more deeply by some countries than others, as it is for LDC and SIDS.

Earlier this year, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General called climate change the battle of his life. It should be the battle of us all.

Climate change is a threat to the international community and, in particular, to vulnerable groups. IOM as warned us that there could be between 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050. These are alarming numbers that should concern us all.

Mr. Chairman,

Timor-Leste's land is 80% mountainous and more than 70% of the population lives in rural areas. When extreme weather events take place, we face erosion, landslides and floods, adversely affecting our population, and causing people to move.

International cooperation is the only way to tackle global warming effectively and so with the support of the UNDP, in 2010, Timor-Leste adopted its first National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change. In addition, the Government of Timor-Leste has been working with development partners in urban and rural development projects, including urban management and coastal resilience projects.

When addressing these concerns, we do agree with the report of the Director-General which calls for a greater investment in building capable national and local disaster responses to reduce long-term dependence on the international community. Here too, you advocate that one solution doesn't fit all, and all solutions must be country-owned. We praised IOM for taking into account the particularities of each country when designing a project and we encourage the Organization to keep its efforts in that sense.

Mr. Chairman,

With the support of the IOM Development Fund, Timor-Leste will develop a Migration Profile by 2020. Subsequently, we hope to improve access to data and strengthening national programming, planning and policymaking in migration and development.

An Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group was created and several meetings took place already with representatives of line ministries. The Migration Profile comes as part of our Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 and our Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to continue engaging with IOM.

I thank you.