



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

Statement by Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca

99th Session of the IOM Council
29th November 2010

At the outset, let me thank the Council of the International Organization for Migration, for its decision to accept the application of Timor-Leste as a member of the organization. I would like to also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to IOM for the important role it has played in assisting the reconstruction of our country.

In 1999, IOM played a pivotal role in the repatriation of many Timorese from various countries around the world, both those who have fled the country between 1975 – 1999, and those who were driven out by violent conflict following the announcement of the result of the UN sponsored Popular Consultation in September 1999. Those who were repatriated include many Timorese resistance leaders, who, upon return, have played crucial role in the national reconstruction of the country. Beyond repatriation, IOM has also been involved in the process reintegration of the newly returned Timorese into their communities.

The IOM was also very active in assisting the Government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to address the problem of Internally Displaced Persons during the communal violence which broke out in 2006.

In Timor-Leste, the approach used by IOM in the discharge of its work is most appreciated. The respect of domestic ownership and reliance in national capacity are characteristics which have made IOM close to the heart of Timorese.

Today, the world is faced with complex challenges presented by migration, which often happens in a massive scale. These challenges are also felt by Timor-Leste. As a new member, Timor-Leste wishes to continue to work with IOM to strengthen its migration system in order to make the country more welcoming, without needing to compromise the efforts to rebuild that new nation.

Thank you.

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