



## **Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Mr. Rui Maria de Araújo  
Prime Minister**

**Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

**to the**

**Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:  
A Commitment to Action**

**27 September 2015  
New York**

*Check Against Delivery*

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,  
His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the Peoples Republic of China,  
Heads of State and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Timor-Leste Constitution, that was passed with great pride when our independence was restored in 2002, provides that men and women must be treated equally in all aspects of life.

Our Constitution also guarantees protection against discrimination based on gender, and equality of rights and obligations in political, economic, social, cultural and family life.

To make these words a reality, our nation's *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030* and our Government Program prioritise action to end the discrimination women and girls face in all areas of their lives and to stop gender-based violence.

These firm commitments will help us achieve the targets of Global Goal 5: Gender Equality. Timor-Leste fully supports this Global Goal which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

We also recommit to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action as we celebrate 20 years since its adoption.

Our country has a proud history of support for women. During our fight for independence, women participated actively in all fronts of the struggle.

And now, Timor-Leste has one of the highest proportions of women parliamentarians in the world and the highest in the Asia-Pacific region. In our last elections, 38% of those elected to the National Parliament were women.

We consider the position of women and girls in our country a key test of our development progress.

Which means we must improve the situation of women and address pervasive gender discrimination if we are to meet our development goals.

We know that healthier and better educated women leads to healthier and better educated families.

Timor-Leste welcomes the international commitment to action of Global Goal 5 and we fully commit to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Thank you very much.