



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**  
**VII GOVERNO CONSTITUCIONAL**

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**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY ENG. ESTANISLAU ALEIXO DA SILVA,  
MINISTER OF STATE AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AT THE  
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE g7+ ACCESSIONS GROUP  
WELCOMING DEVELOPMENT FOR POST-CONFLICT AND FRAGILE ECONOMIES  
THROUGH WTO ACCESSIONS**

*Buenos Aires, Argentina, 10 December 2017*

Excellencies,  
WTO Dignitaries,  
Honorable Ministers and Representatives of g7+,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our organization, the g7+, has come a long way since its establishment in Dili, Timor-Leste, in 2010. Our leaders have been committed and engaged in implementing agreed upon initiatives and actions. Successive Chairs have given encouraging contributions and the Secretariat has responded to expected levels of performance. Now, looking back, we can proudly say that our joint effort has paid back, and resulted in concrete achievements, particularly in the areas of state-building and peace-building.

As such, Honorable Ministers, it is a pleasure and honor to address all of you today, in Buenos Aires, which I consider an opportunity to revisit some founding ideas that keep us together and enlighten the way forward towards the future we want to build in our respective countries.

As you can recall, g7+ member States know, for a fact, that conflict and fragility are major obstacles to achieving sustainable development, in any country and in any region of the world. For us, state-building and peace-building deserve due consideration and upmost priority, by way of planned efforts, translated in concrete action plans. We prefer country-specific, country-led and country-owned inclusive sustainable development, whose opportunities are made available to all citizens and benefit all.





Our ultimate goal is a better life for all of our respective peoples. We want our countries free of poverty, with protected environment and enjoying peace, stability, security and prosperity. We want to achieve sustainable development and be sustained on the resources we have.

It is fair to say that, through g7+, we made our voices heard by the international community and the Sustainable Development Goal 16 is greatly the result of our forefront advocacy efforts and persistence. We have several expressions of solidarity amongst ourselves that have proven to be very useful and quite timely.

As you know, peace, justice and strong institutions set the stage for political stability, respect of human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law. Peace, justice and strong institutions also set the stage for predictability in doing business, in attracting investments, and in promoting trade.

WTO accession is a process that fully coincides with the founding principles of g7+. You will recall that, for us, state-building is a process that cuts across the establishment of credible economic and trade policy frameworks and institutions. WTO helps us be acquainted with multilateral trade law and international best practices in trade, and technical assistance is provided for each acceding country to develop and consolidate domestic public institutions that operate according to high standards of transparency and good governance.

Excellencies,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through this statement, it is clear that Timor-Leste supports the establishment of a g7+ WTO Accession Group. My country will cherish the new Group and provide our modest contribution for its development and promotion of its mandate.





I believe one way forward is a close attention to our respective accession process, despite other ongoing pressing initiatives, particularly the ones inherent to overcoming situations of fragility and peace-building.

Our respective domestic realities are sources of lessons and experiences, good and bad, and within the g7+ WTO Accession Group we will have much to share, much to learn from, and much to exchange. In other words, the future of this Group depends on our own efforts. Through this Group, we will continue to demonstrate to the world that Solidarity, Unity and results-oriented International Cooperation are also possible when dealing with trade related matters in the context of multilateral trading system.

Let us discuss further the basic objectives, function and activities of the Group and adopt our official declaration establishing the g7+ WTO Accessions Group.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Buenos Aires, 10 December 2017

