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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL**  
**UNSC DEBATE: UNMIT**  
(22 February 2012)

Mr. President,

1. Allow me to start by welcoming the President of Timor-Leste, his Excellency Jose Ramos-Horta. His serene but firm defense to human rights, among other things, earned him the Nobel Peace Prize and has been an inspiring source of inspiration to many of us. We also appreciate the encouraging information provided by Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and commend her for her leadership and efforts made in support of this country.

2. 2012 is an important year since it marks the tenth anniversary of the restoration of Timor-Leste's independence. The achievements made so far, in this short amount of time, deserve recognition and we are glad to share this historic moment with Timor-Leste. We congratulate the leadership and the progress made by President Ramos-Horta. We also thank bilateral donors and the international security forces for their continuing commitment to peace and stability in Timor-Leste.

3. We are aware that consolidating a democracy and building a system of governance is a long-term process. There are many challenges to overcome, the political, economic and security situation of Timor-Leste, attests the good will and resilience of the Timorese. The Security Council is following closely the elections process and it is encouraging that so far steady progress has been made, thus ensuring a peaceful and credible political process.

4. We know that international support will still be needed after UNMIT's withdrawal particularly in consolidating Timor-Leste institutions that are still forming such as the police, a sector in which the UN has heavily invested. In this regard, we welcome the Joint Transition Plan signed on 19 September 2011, between the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT; its effective implementation will ensure a smooth transition.

5. Guatemala considers that the presence of the UN after the withdrawal of UNMIT must be consistent with the situation on the ground and needs to respect the priorities of the government to be elected in the coming months.

6. Timor-Leste is endowed with natural resources. The good management of these resources is essential for Timor-Leste's sustainable development. Greater investment and resources need to be allocated in areas such as education and youth employment, health and agriculture. We echo the call of the SRSG upon the national institutions to be bold in their fight against corruption and send a strong signal that it would not be tolerated<sup>1</sup>.

7. We are encouraged by the increasing international integration of Timor-Leste, for example, in its efforts to apply for membership for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which we hope will be successful. This undoubtedly will be a platform that will benefit not only the Timorese but also the international community.

Mr. President:

8. We would like to recognize the important role the United Nations has played in Timor-Leste since 1999. The United Nations has become a better institution, not only because of the work realized there, but also by drawing on the lessons it has learned from Timor-Leste, its trajectory is a shared success. In this sense, I would also like to invoke the memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello, as one of the pioneers of the United Nations presence in Timor-Leste.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Véase párrafo 12 del informe del SGNU, S/2012/43.