

5 April, 2007

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
TIMOR LESTE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Now that this Presidential campaign period is ending, and only a few days remain before the people of Timor Leste go to the polls to elect their next president, we want to commend the people and institutions of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste on organizing their first sovereign national elections.

We believe in the commitment of the Timorese people to making democracy work and strongly expect that the presidential election will be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner. The world remembers the courage and unity shown by the Timorese people during the referendum in 1999 and their dedication to continuing the democratic process since then. We call on all citizens to exercise their right to vote and for all involved to conduct themselves appropriately. There is no place for violence or the use of other coercive means during voting or in response to election results.

After the vote, all of us will be waiting in anticipation for the results. It will be vital for all parties to accept results which reflect the conduct of a free and fair election and the will of the people. Any concerns regarding electoral misconduct should be pursued through the dispute mechanisms which have been established by Timorese law and regulations.

We reiterate our support for the people of Timor Leste, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation with its institutions and to working to bring the people together in developing the country.

H.E. Mr. Joao Ramos Pinto
Ambassador of Portugal

H.E. Ms. Ruth Nuttall
Ambassador of New Zealand

H.E. Mr. Kenji Shimizu
Ambassador of Japan

Ms. Eleanor Nagy
Charge d'Affaires ad interim
Embassy of the United States of America

Mr. Miguel Amado
Special Representative of the
European Commission