



8TH ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
4th July 2018**

**Statement by: Mr Eugenio Joao Amado de Maria Soares
Director General for Social Protection and Veterans Affairs
Representing the Minister for Social Solidarity
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

Dear Chair, Honorable Guests, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured here today to represent the Minister for Social Solidarity and on behalf of the Minister and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and I would like to thank the Government of Mongolia and the UNISDR for organizing the 8th AMCDRR. In addition, I wish to thank the Government of Mongolia for hosting the conference and its generous support and hospitality to the Timor Leste delegation.

The theme of AMCDRR 2018 is, 'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development' and our Government endorses this theme having enthusiastically adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noting the critical role that Disaster Risk Reduction has in protecting our current and future development progress.

AMCDRR 2018 is the second ministerial conference since the advent of the Sendai Framework in March 2015 and as such it provides a number of key opportunities. Firstly it is an opportunity for the States represented here today to publicly reaffirm their commitment to the Sendai Framework, and grasp the opportunity to together set the direction to accelerate regional implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in the Asian Region.

Secondly it provides an opportunity to update on the progress towards implementing the immediate actions of the Sendai Framework for States to be in place by 2020.

Thirdly it provides us all with an opportunity to endorse and provide direction for the 2018-2020 Action Plan of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Finally it provides the opportunity to learn from our counterparts and cement relationships and linkages on how best to collaborate to ensure regional implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The range of workshops and seminars presented here are very impressive including mainstreaming of DRR, public-private partnerships and the alignment to sustainable development frameworks and linkages to Climate Change adaptation, early warning

system application and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as disabled persons, elderly, women and children.

Honorable Guests, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my role in representing the Government of Timor Leste, here today I wish to reaffirm Timor Leste's commitment to the Sendai Framework.

The people of Timor Leste have proven their resilience to Disasters in the past and have had to overcome many hazards in their lifetime, both natural and man-made.

Our Ministry is responsible for both Social Protection and Disaster Management and we are incorporating advice from a range of agencies including the World Bank and UNDP to ensure that Social Protection is incorporated into our planning and response to natural Disasters.

We are also devolving responsibility for DRR and DRM to sub national level, the 2016 Decree Law on Municipalities provides the legal framework to devolve a range of key responsibilities to Municipal Government and this includes the establishment of Municipal Disaster Management Units. These units will take responsibility for Disaster Risk Governance at sub National level and as such are critical to the

development and implementation of local platforms and disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Significant resources have been allocated by the Timor Leste Government and its development partners in working together in strengthening resilience of communities to climate-induced disasters.

Dear Chair, Honorable Guests, Excellencies,

Timor Leste looks forward to continuing partnerships and collaboration regionally and internationally to achieve our mutual goals of maximizing preparedness, enhancing DRR governance, building resilience and minimizing disaster risks and our participation in AMCDRR 2018 is a key part of this.

Thank you.