



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE 6TH CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Declaration of Maubisse

The construction of an economically and socially modern and developed society is only possible if it is based on the principles of inclusion, tolerance and gender equality. The realisation of this ambitious yet achievable challenge implies the involvement of all public and private agents, in the concretisation of the objectives set out in the 2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan with the support and willingness of the Program of the 6th Constitutional Government, assuming it to be a cross-cutting issue for all governmental action.

It is essential to provide continuity for the work already commenced and to further the socio-economic empowerment of women as a necessary condition for the construction of a modern and developed society. It is fundamental provide equal opportunities to Women in terms of education and professional training, as well as guaranteeing equal opportunity in access to labour markets, social and political life to be able to contribute to national development. Such a plan must have as its basis the convergence of the government actions necessary for the implementation of the 2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan and the Program of the 6th Constitutional Government.

Gender equality is constitutionally guaranteed but, in isolation, this aim has not been achieved. Timor-Leste re-inforced this objective in 2002 with the signing and ratification of the Convention regarding the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which guarantees equal rights for women and girls, seeks to alleviate poverty amongst women, addresses discrimination against women, their levels of health and education and the eradication of domestic violence. CEDAW recognises the importance of responding to the needs, and of adapting policy and program responses to the situation of rural women. Moreover, rural development is a

priority for the Government given that around 70% of the population live in rural areas.

Most recently, world leaders, under the auspices of the United Nation, in its declaration of the 28th of September 2015, asserted that: "We must improve the situation of women and combat widespread gender discrimination, if we are to fulfill our development goals."

The non-petroleum economy of Timor-Leste, as in other countries, is based in the agriculture sector and is currently underperforming, in part because women are not recognised as economic agents, nor as farmers and because there is discrimination in access to resources and opportunities for women. Recent studies show that women undertake more than half of all agricultural work. Furthermore, women are still responsible for the majority of household work and for educational activities for their children.

Recent studies show that women have been proven to be more able to invest in the health and well-being of their families. The "Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS 2013)" shows that better educated mothers have fewer malnourished children.

The majority of women are involved in agriculture and 27% of women aged between 15 and 55 years are malnourished.

The celebration of the International Day of Rural Women for 2015 marks the start of a new cycle of support for initiatives put forward by rural women, pro-actively promoting Gender Equality in all development sectors. Such aims require a coordinated response from the various governmental actors, that strengthen the capacity of women, improve their access to production inputs and support the development of an environment conducive to Gender Equality.

Public and private stakeholders are committed to work to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women to encourage their full contribution to economic development.

There is a need to refocus the role of women in timorese society.

Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women; Ministry of Commerce Industry and Environment; Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication; Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of State Administration; the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment Policy; and the National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste hereby sign the Maubisse Declaration to mark the start of this new cycle.

In compliance:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries shall:

- By 2017 – commence execution of gender equality policies to support an increase in the number of women participating in development for agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries and support gender mainstreaming at the national and municipal levels;
- In 2017 – have women as 35% of beneficiaries of agricultural development programs and will provide more assistance to women’s agribusiness groups;
- In 2017 – support the creation of youth farming groups in the área of horticulture to improve the quality of food and nutrition for families in Timor-Leste.

The Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women shall:

- In 2017 – coordinate and provide technical assistance to key-partners including SEPFOPE, MAF, and IADE regarding the socio-economic capacity-building of women;
- Establish a Committee to monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the Declaration of Maubisse.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment shall:

- Increase the number of women beneficiaries of industry and cooperative subsidies;
- By 2017 – improve access to markets through the construction of six market facilities in Aileu, Ainaro, Liquiçá, Baucau and Becora, Gleno / Ermera and guarantee that women have leadership roles in their management bodies;
- By 2017 - guarantee that 30% of beneficiaries receiving training in management, marketing, business and advertising are women;
- By 2017 – promote women’s leadership in rural business and in national and international trade-fairs;
- By 2017 – provide financial and technical support to 200 women targeting cooperatives, micro and small business in rural areas;
- In 2017 – support 2000 families with the introduction of source of alternative energy (Fugaun Foun Timor);
- In 2017 – increase the capacity of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment to provide data disaggregated by sex and geographical location.

The Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications shall:

- In 2017 – develop and approve a policy that guarantees that infrastructure projects supported and financed by the Government employ, at least, 30% women;
- By 2017 – guarantee that construction lead by women receive preference as part of the process of public tendering for Government infrastructure projects;
- In 2017 – guarantee that 4000 families in remote areas have access to sources of renewable energy and give priority to vulnerable families, including women headed households;
- By 2017 – guarantee that 150 km of rural roads are rehabilitated and that 1000 km of rural roads are conserved;
- In 2017 – guarantee that 85% of rural aldeias have access to functioning water-supply systems and continuing support for the participation of women in water management committees (FGMF);
- By 2017 – guarantee that 35% of rural households have toilet facilities.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture shall:

- By 2017 – support and develop ecotourism in Timor-Leste, actively seeking the participation of rural women and women’s groups in the process;
- By 2017 – promote the traditional culture of timorese women, as national cultural heritage and support traditional craftspeople to become economically viable.

The Ministry of Health shall:

- In 2017 – guarantee improved access to primary health care, specifically through family health programs for rural families;
- In 2017 – improve access to maternal and newborn health and to family planning for rural women;
- In 2017 – help to guarantee the health standards of products developed by rural women.

The Ministry of State Administration shall:

- By 2017 – guarantee equal access for women in recruitment to the municipalities;
- By 2017 – support the participation of women in decision making in rural areas;
- In collaboration with the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women promote training courses for women for public administration;
- By 2017 – the Ministry of Public Work, Transport and Communication to recruit women staff members, promote their capacity building to advance to higher level staff positions in the National Suco Development Program and the MPSI at the national and municipal levels;
- By 2017 – guarantee the allocation of funds necessary to conduct training courses and comparative studies to support / facilitate Community and Administrative Post Management Teams in the implementation of the National Suco Development Program;
- By 2017 – collaborate with the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and

Civil Society in the promotion and strengthening of the participation of women in the National Suco Development Program, particularly in decision making for women in rural aldeias;

- The Ministry of State Administration, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication, Ministry for Social Security and the Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women provide support to promote and build the capacity of diasabled girls and women, at the national and sub-national levels.

The Secretary of State for Vocational Training Policy and Employment shall:

- By 2017 – Increase the capacity to gather and process data regarding the employment and skills of rural women in a way that guarantees the employability and integration of women in the labour market;
- By 2017 – guarantee that 50% of the beneficiaries of the Secretary of State for Vocational Training Policy and Employment are unmarried young women and rural women who benefit from high-employability training in rural areas;
- By 2017 – create rural employment programs with 30% participation from women;
- By 2017 – oversee and report on the implementation of the Labour Law to guarantee and develop the system of resolution of issues relating to workplace health, hygiene and safety;
- In 2017 – create a legal framework for Domestic Contracting/Procurement.

The National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste shall:

- Create conditions to improve the access of women to credit at National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste to start / promote their own businesses.

Signed in Maubisse, on the 15th of October 2015,

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Ministry of Health

Ministry of State Administration

Secretary of State for Vocational Training Policy and Employment

National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste

Witness to this Declaration,

Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo

Prime-Minister of the 6th Constitutional Government