



República Democrática de Timor-Leste  
Ministério das Finanças



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Dili, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Your Excellencies**

Secretary of State of the Government of Estonia

**Taimar Peterkop**

Minister for Public Administration of the Government of Italy

**Paolo Zangrillo**

Director of the Communication and Development Institute (ICD) of Uruguay

**Anabel Cruz**

Executive Director of Twaweza East Africa

**Aidan Eyakuze**

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-Chairs

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is proud to, hereby, express its intention to join the Open Government Partnership and be part of an increasing global movement towards promoting transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance.

Timor-Leste is a young developing nation that has experienced a turbulent conflict in past history which have prevented its people from meeting its full potential.

However, as a Nation and as a People, we managed to assume a shared commitment in favour of peace, which allows us to move forward together, in a true spirit of national solidarity, towards development and a more prosperous future.

We are consolidating our democratic governance and building our state from the ground up. We are laying solid foundations that will allow us continued stability and security, and we are also working hard to create new opportunities for all our people.

We understand that transparency and accountability are essential elements of a democratic and successful society and they have been constant references for policy making of successive Governments.

Therefore, Timor-Leste is committed to the principles of the Open Government Declaration, which we support and endorse.

On this note, we would like to inform that Timor-Leste is conducting important reforms of public finance management and public administration which aim to increase transparency, public participation and accountability of our leaders.

Of these, we can highlight a new state budget framework law which establishes a mandatory national consultation of citizens regarding the yearly priorities of the state budget and increases the transparency and public information produced by the Government, namely a citizen's budget both of the draft and of the approved state budget law. We have also approved a new public procurement code which consolidates e-procurement and requires justification for choosing which companies to invite for bidding in cases where request for quotation or single source procurement is allowed. And finally, a new law on prevention and combatting of corruption came into force two years ago, that instituted a declaration of income, assets and interests for public officials.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's commitment to the principles of the Open Government is not only demonstrated by measure referred above, but also by the score achieved on the eligibility criteria, where it scored 13 out of 16 points (88%), above the minimum required 75% to be eligible to join the Open Government Partnership.

However, we still face a series of challenges, from nascent institutions, low education standards, lack of a democratic tradition and scarcity of resources, which increase the significance of being able to belong to a forum like the Open Government Partnership and benefiting from the technical assistance and experience sharing that comes with it.

Nonetheless, we also believe that our experience as a small southern hemisphere developing country and a successful democracy for over twenty years may be of value to the Open Government Partnership as a case of success of transparency, public participation and accountability policies along lower income countries.

Therefore, we look forward to be part of the Open Government Partnership and to develop a comprehensive National Open Government Action Plan as a result of extensive and broad nationwide consultation. Based on the decision by the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Finance is the lead ministry and the Minister of Finance is the high-level point of contact responsible for the Open Government Partnership, and Mr. Martinho Lopes, Director of the Office for PFM Policy Reform and Capacity Building is the Timorese working-level point of contact for the Open Government Partnership.

Yours sincerely,

The Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste,

  
**Rui Augusto Gomes**