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United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Public Information Office

Press Release

Dr Ramos Horta to address new report on global security and UN reform

9 December 2004: The Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste will be making a presentation on a newly released report urging the international community to adopt new, far-reaching ground rules to help the world face new security threats and to strengthen the United Nations.

The *Report of the UN High Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change*, which was released by the United Nations last week, sets out a bold, new vision of collective security for the 21st century as well as generates ideas about the kinds of policies and institutions required for the world body to be effective.

Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta will discuss the report as well as share his thoughts on a more comprehensive system of collective security, which addresses the concerns of all States, during the presentation this Friday (10 December 2004) at Obrigado Barracks in Dili.

The panel of 16 former heads of state, foreign ministers, security, military, diplomatic and development officials, who were appointed by the Secretary-General last year to put together the report, have made more than 100 recommendations for strengthening international security, including focusing on issues such as terrorism, poverty, infectious diseases, weapons of mass destruction, civil violence as well as reforming the United Nations.

One of the changes recommended by the panel is the expansion of the UN Security Council from 15 members to 24 members. The report suggests two options – one involving six new permanent members with no veto, the second based on four-year, renewable seats distributed regionally.

In relation to peace-building, the report recommends the creation of a new UN body, the Peacebuilding Commission, which would identify countries at risk of violent conflict, organize prevention efforts, and marshal and sustain the efforts of the international community in post-conflict peacebuilding.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Sukehiro Hasegawa, has welcomed the proposal for the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission and emphasized the need for creating adequate capacity under the Secretariat and resources to discharge the task of transition from peacekeeping to sustainable development assistance.

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, plans to take the panel's recommendations into account in his own report, which is due to be released in March next year. This will help set the agenda for special summit scheduled for world leaders next September.

Exact details of the Foreign Minister's presentation are as follows:

Date: Friday, 10 December 2004
Time: 11:00 am
Venue: UNMISET Conference Room
Obrigado Barracks, Dili
Contact: Mr Ricardo Lobo, Chief, Public Information Office, on +670 723 0684