

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 08 December 2002

DONORS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DILI 09 TO 10 DECEMBER

The Timor-Leste Government and the World Bank will host a two-day donors' conference starting Monday in a Dili which continues to remain calm after last Wednesday's violence. The "Timor-Leste and Development Partners Meeting", as it is formally called, will be held 09 to 10 December at the Hotel Timor and will be chaired by Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri.

Welcoming remarks at the Monday morning opening session of the conference will be made by President Xanana Gusmao and by the Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamallesh Sharma.

Some 200 representatives of the international donor community and of missions and agencies based in Timor-Leste are expected to attend, including World Bank Vice-President Jemal-ud-din Kassum who, along with Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, will deliver opening statements on Monday morning.

This is the first "Timor-Leste and Development Partners Meeting" to be organised since the country gained independence on 20 May of this year. SRSG, Mr Kamallesh Sharma hopes that the meeting will serve as a first step in establishing a traditional development assistance framework between the Government of Timor-Leste and the donor community. He wishes all the participants all success in their endeavours.

