

**MESSAGE OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON THE OCCASION OF UN DAY**  
*(24 October 2002)*

United Nations Day marks the commemoration of the signature of the Charter of our Organization. The United Nations represents the aspiration of the world community to create a world free of want and conflict through collective and shared effort. You would recall that UN Day 2001 was particularly special as the Organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in promoting peace, defending human rights and fighting poverty. On UN Day 2002 we should rededicate ourselves to the ideals of the United Nations. The year 2002 is also particularly historic for relations between Timor-Leste and the UN as the newly independent country joined the organization during the year.

Not the least of these challenges is the fight against terrorism. A global concern, the urgency of working together to combat this scourge was brought home most tragically, once more, just a few weeks ago. While we come to terms with the loss of two peacekeepers, our profound sympathy go to the families and friends of our colleagues, who have not been found. Terrorism needs to be combated effectively on all fronts and your role as a valued member of a peace-keeping operation would contribute to this task.

However, as the world confronts new challenges, old ones remain. Secretary-General in his message on this UN Day, the second of the new millennium, has reminded us of the need to work towards fulfilling the pledges made by the leaders of the world at the Millennium Summit towards attacking poverty, halting the spread of AIDS, providing access to safe drinking water by 2015 and overcoming many other on the social agenda of the developing world. The Secretary-General has warned that ‘if we don’t do better in the next 12 years than in the last 10, we shall miss most of these goals’. The fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease, must, therefore, be at the forefront of our endeavors. They are also the challenges in the country in which we serve. We are confident they will be overcome.

For the progress achieved here in Timor-Leste in such a relatively short time, I applaud and thank the commitment of each one of you. UNMISSET’s international civil servants continue to display the professionalism, dedication and spirit of cooperation which I noted upon my arrival in mission. Let us continue to work together to ensure that, through our commitment and solidarity, this fledgling nation gets the best possible headstart as it becomes a respected member of the comity of nations.

On behalf of the Secretary-General and myself, I thank you all.

Kamalesh Sharma  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste  
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor