



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### TIMOR LESTE: WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN POLITICS

#### VIDEO

ARCHIVAL VIOLENCE IMAGES

CU. WOMAN'S FACE

ARCHIVAL IMAGES  
INDEPENDENCE

WOMEN CONFERENCE SHOTS

OLD PHOTOS

MARIA ON CAMERA

ARCHIVE SHOTS

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

The birth of the new nation Timor-Leste in 2002 came only after much violence and struggle.

(6.10)

MARIA PAIXÃO: (Portuguese) **F**

*"The greatest moment of my life was to celebrate with my people the independence of our country."* (9.1)

##### NARRATION

The struggle had key support from women like Maria Paixão, who joined rebels in the mountains at the age of seventeen as they fought for independence from Indonesia. (9)

MARIA PAIXÃO: (Portuguese) **F**

*"During the independence struggle, women took on the tasks that were too dangerous for men. We took food to our fighters on the frontline, and brought information to our commanders to plan the attacks."* (16)

MS. MEDICS ATTEND TO  
CASUALTIES OF STREET RIOT

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

WOMAN DOING LAUNDRY

STREET, WOMAN WALKING

WOMEN'S CAUCUS PREMISES

WOMEN ENTERING

WOMEN'S CAUCUS MEETING

JEAN D'CUNHA ON CAMERA

CARMELITA MONIZ ENTERS

MONIZ ON CAMERA

### NARRATION

Women risked their lives to gain Timor Leste's independence - and today they are succeeding in changing the politics of this tiny South-East Asian island. Maria Paixão is now Vice President of the country's parliament, where one in three lawmakers are women – a higher proportion than in many developed countries. (19)

But women still face serious obstacles – most are barred from inheriting property, domestic violence remains a widespread problem and women typically have less schooling than men. (11)

Working with her female colleagues, Maria Paixão has founded the Women's Parliamentary Caucus. Jean D'Cunha is UNIFEM's Regional Programme Director. (10)

JEAN D'CUNHA: (English) **F**

*"It is extremely important for women to be involved in politics because it is the right of women to politically participate."* (8)

### NARRATION

Carmelita Moniz is one of the MPs who meet regularly with the caucus. (4.2)

CARMELITA MONIZ: (Portuguese) **F**

*"The main women's issue that needs to be addressed in Parliament is the law on domestic*

*violence. (7.2)*

*This should be the priority.” (2.15)*

### NARRATION

A crucial aim for Maria Paixão is to foster women’s confidence. She wants them to dream higher. (6)

CONFERENCE SHOTS

MARIA PAIXÃO: (Portuguese) **F**

*“My dream is that by 2020 I would like to see a woman president in Timor-Leste. (7.15)*

MARIA ON CAMERA

*In my opinion not only men are able to hold this position... (5.13)*

VAR. SHOTS OF WOMEN

*...but women are also qualified to lead the country.” (3.2)*

### NARRATION

After a busy working day, Maria Paixão greets her granddaughters. (4)

MARIA AT HOME W/  
GRANDDAUGHTERS

MARIA PAIXÃO: (Portuguese) **F**

*“I tell my granddaughters to have self-esteem and self-respect, so they may pass it on to their girlfriends and to all Timorese women.” (11)*

MARIA ON CAMERA

### NARRATION

For Maria Paixão, the struggle has changed. This time it’s a struggle that starts at home – the empowerment of her country’s women. (10)

MARIA GOT OUT OF SUV  
WS. CEMETERY  
MARIA AT CAUCUS.

This report was prepared by Francis Mead and Richard Wolf for the United Nations.

UN LOGO