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UNTAET and The World Bank

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STRENGTHENED DONOR SUPPORT FOR EAST TIMOR

LISBON, June 23, 2000—Donors today pledged their continued support for East Timor, in a meeting here hosted by the Government of Portugal. Donors reaffirmed the substantial pledges for the reconstruction and development of East Timor and for the new East Timorese administration.

“This conference has endorsed a concrete work program for the reconstruction and development of East Timor, with substantial East Timorese participation. This process must include East Timorese people of all political persuasions, including those who are still living in West Timor. This conference has been a great success. We are profoundly moved by the fact that the international community has responded swiftly to the message brought to Lisbon by us, the East Timorese, and knew how to express their unequivocal support for the people of East Timor, in a spirit of generosity and trust.”, says CNRT President, **Xanana Gusmão**.

Donors recognized the importance of the East Timor Consolidated Budget to complement the reconstruction program and indicated their support for closing the financing gap of USD 16 million for the next financial year.

Sergio Vieira de Mello added that *“the responses received from member states and international organisations constitute a vote of confidence and a clear indication that donors appreciated the responsible and realistic budget submission made by the East Timorese and UNTAET, particularly for the revised consolidated budget”*

Donors expressed support for the activities of the World Bank administered Trust Fund for East Timor (TFET), and endorsed a work program for July to December 2000. The meeting resulted in additional donors joining the TFET, the efforts to reconstruct and develop East Timor.

“The donor community and the East Timorese have worked with an incredible speed in the first six months of reconstruction of East Timor. Now we need to focus our attention on the quality of the development process. We see East Timorese participation and leadership in the coordination of development agencies as key to a sustainable development process. This is particularly important as we move into this new phase: the implementation of reconstruction plans.” says **Jemaludin Kassum**, World Bank Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific region.

During meetings this week in Lisbon, hosted by the Government of Portugal and co-chaired by *The World Bank* and the *UNTAET*, representatives from East Timor, bi- and multilateral development agencies and NGOs approved the development efforts of the past six months and endorsed a work program for East Timor’s development from July to December, 2000, at which time a similar review of the process will take place.

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