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East Timor Government, UNTAET and the World Bank

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Donors Discuss Post-Independence Support in Dili

Dili, 8 May 2002 - Six days ahead of East Timor's access to full independence, donors will convene in Dili to discuss support for the program of the newly created Democratic Republic of East Timor. The main meeting, hosted by the Second Transitional Government of East Timor, will focus on the National Development Plan and the country's fiscal strategy.

The Second Transitional Government of East Timor, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the World Bank will co-chair the meeting under the roof that sheltered the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) team in October 1999. The building that was then referred to as "tent city" has since become the Constituent Assembly, and witnessed the drafting of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of East Timor ratified by the Constituent Assembly on 22 March 2002. It will be inaugurated as the nation's Parliament on 20 May 2002.

The JAM team, comprised of an equal number of East Timorese and International experts, evaluated external financing requirements for East Timor's reconstruction. The JAM findings were presented at the first Donors Meeting for East Timor in Tokyo, in December 1999. It was followed by meetings in Lisbon (June 2000), Brussels (December 2000), Canberra (June 2001) and Oslo (December 2001) where donors consistently demonstrated their support for East Timor and endorsed an international coordinated effort for the reconstruction and development of the devastated country.

Donors contributing to the World Bank administered Trust Fund for East Timor (TFET) will also discuss TFET progress and plans in a Donor Council meeting to be held on 16 May 2002.

Media are invited to attend the opening session on 14 May at 9:00 am and closing session on 15 May at 12:00 at the Parliament Building. A press conference will be held following the conclusion of the meeting on 15 May at 12:30.

For accreditation for this event, please contact Bárbara Reis or Abé Barreto-Soares (see above)

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