Mr./Madam Chair

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to UNICEF and the Executive Board for the comprehensive report and presentation of UNICEF on the status of its programmes in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste once again has marked significant events in the democratic process during the past few months. Timor-Leste successfully conducted Presidential and Parliamentary elections earlier this year, and electoral observers stated that the environment was free, fair and stable. The new government was sworn in last month and the five year plan, based on our National Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, is currently before Parliament. Over the next five years the priority areas for the Government are education, health, increasing professional and social capacity, economic development, infrastructure, rural development, and decentralization. The Government will increase its budgetary spending in these areas in an effort to provide greater support to children, women, poor families, the elderly, and our veterans.
Mr/ Madam Chair

Timor-Leste appreciates the environment of cooperation and the consultations undertaken between UNICEF and my Government, as well as the alignment of UNICEF programming with our National Plans. This ensures that all programming is consistent with Timorese priorities, and that we have ownership over the processes, which is a key principle of the g7+. At the next review, we hope that this spirit of engagement and consultation will be conducted in full alignment with the SDP and the Government’s five year plan, and the principles of national ownership and leadership.

UNICEF along with our partners have made great strides in addressing education, health and issues relating to women and children. Timor-Leste would also like to acknowledge the contributions of our partners including Australia, the European Union and the United States among others, for their continued support.

UNICEF plays an important role in Timor-Leste’s development not only in education but also assisting the development of Timorese legislation and policy in several areas such as the National Immunization Strategy, Juvenile Justice, HIV National Strategic Plan, and the Youth Parliament.

Mr/ Madam Chair

As noted in the report by the end of the year UNMIT will come to a close. Timor-Leste takes this opportunity to thank members of the Security Council and the international community for all the support over the last ten years. Looking forward to the next phase of UN engagement in Timor-Leste, the Government wishes to see an engagement that is focused on development and in the building of local capacities.

Thank you.