

TIMOR LESTE TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT FROM BRAZIL: South-South cooperation project worth more than \$500,000

16 June 2010

For immediate release:

(ROAP/10/16)

Press Release

GENEVA (ILO News) – The Governments of Timor Leste and Brazil have signed a Cooperation Agreement that will bring more than US\$520,000-worth of assistance to Timor Leste.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony held during the International Labour Conference (ILC), in Geneva. The ILC is the annual meeting of the 183 member states of the International Labour Organization (ILO) the UN agency dealing with work and workplace issues.

The agreement will fund a project that will contribute towards the establishment of a social security system in Timor Leste. This work will include the creation of training instruments to strengthen the capacity of Timor Leste in the field of social security protection and work on a strategy for creating the relevant public policies. The project will begin this month (June 2010) and run until September 2011. It is being implemented with the assistance of the ILO.

Of the project funding, US\$ 385,825 will come from Brazil and US\$136,000 from the ILO, making a total of US\$521,825.

The agreement was signed by Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca, Permanent Representative of Timor Leste to the UN in Geneva, Mr Marco Farani, Director of the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Assane Diop, Executive Director, ILO Social Protection Sector.

Welcoming the agreement Ambassador da Fonseca spoke of the need for social protection in his country and the widespread poverty. “Social policy [is being] implemented to bring people out of poverty and give value to the independence they fought for,” he said. (see photo note below)

For more information please contact:

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NOTE: A photograph of the signing ceremony is available upon request to fisher@ilo.org or dow@ilo.org