

## National Parliament Resolution No. 14/2011

of 22 June

### **Institutional Communication between the United Nations Organisation, its Agencies, the European Union and the Institutions of the Timorese State**

Considering that language is an essential factor for constructing a Nations' identity and for affirming State institutions, for it is a decisive element for strengthening cohesion and national unity;

*Considering* the clear and unequivocal decision made almost a decade ago, and expressed in the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, to adopt Tetum and Portuguese as our Official Languages;

*Recognising* that language is a critical factor for enabling a fluid and unequivocal communication and for facilitating the fruitful understanding between the Timorese institutions, on the one hand, and the international organisations and agencies, on the other hand, in supporting Timor-Leste's development;

*Conceding* that the difficulties result mostly from deficiencies derived from the use of languages other than the official languages of the country, when it is known that such agencies use or operate in Portuguese language in countries like Brazil, Angola, Mozambique and other countries;

*Considering* that some of the international organisations present in the country, such as the European Union and certain UN agencies, have Portuguese as their Official or working language;

*Given the insistence* in not producing and disseminating, in Timor-Leste, documents written in Portuguese language, which would enable an easier understanding and clarity in the relationship with such organisations and agencies;

*Considering*, finally, that the heads of several of such agencies have demonstrated, repeatedly and on many occasions, their total availability to systematically use the Official Languages of the country in their relations with the Timorese institutions;

***The National Parliament resolves the following, pursuant to articles 92 and 95.1 of the Constitution of the Republic:***

1. To call upon the international organisations and agencies operating in Timor-Leste, notably the United Nations, UNDP and the European

Union, to immediately promote through all means the systematic use of the Official Languages of Timor-Leste;

2. To call upon the United Nations, UNDP and other agencies, as well the European Union Office in Timor-Leste, to the effect that, similarly as in Angola, Brazil and Mozambique, among other countries, they should use the Portuguese language in the production and dissemination of documents of a technical nature, and Tetum and Portuguese Languages in other institutional communication;
3. To recommend the United Nations, UNDP and other agencies, including the European Union Office in Timor-Leste, to take all the necessary and adequate measures to the effect that, within a maximum period of six months, the technical documentation be prepared in Portuguese and Tetum Languages;
4. To call upon the United Nations, UNDP and other agencies, including the European Union Office in Timor-Leste, to ensure that in all projects in which they are involved, interlocutors express themselves fluently in Portuguese Language, as is the case in Angola, Brazil, Mozambique and in other countries;
5. To urge the United Nations, UNDP and other agencies, the European Union Office in Timor-Leste, as well as the State institutions, to include in the terms of reference for hiring international advisers and consultants, the need for candidates to be fluent in written and spoken Portuguese, with exceptions only being allowed in residual and duly justified cases;
6. To recommend the United Nations, UNDP and other agencies, the European Union Office in Timor-Leste, as well as the Timorese institutions, to the effect that, in addition to Portuguese Language, they should promote the inclusion of knowledge of Tetum as a preferential factor in the recruitment process;
7. To urge the Government and other State institutions to promote Tetum learning courses intended for international consultants and advisers;
8. To entrust the Secretary-General of the National Parliament to take all the necessary measures with a view to materialising the guidelines contained in this Resolution, namely as regards communication with the United Nations and its agencies, the European Union Office in Timor-Leste and UNDP, particularly in the framework of the Parliament Project, and as regards future recruitment processes of international advisers and consultants;

9. To entrust His Excellency the President of the National Parliament to convey, through the usual diplomatic channels, the contents of this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UNDP Administrator in New York, the President of the European Commission, and to also inform their respective representatives in Dili.

Approved on 13 June 2011.

For publication.

The Vice-President of the National Parliament,

**Vicente da Silva Guterres**