



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE
MINISTRO COORDENADOR DE ASSUNTOS ECONÓMICOS**

**Second Ministerial Meeting of the g7+ WTO Accessions
Group**

**H. E. Mr. Joaquim Amaral, Coordinating Minister for
Economic Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Timor-
Leste**

Opening Remarks

Your Excellency Honourable Mawine G. Diggs, Minister of
Commerce and Industry of Liberia and Co-Coordinator of the
g7+ WTO Accessions Group

Excellencies Ministers and Representatives of the g7+,
g7+WTO Accessions Group, Informal Group of Acceding
Governments and WTO Members

Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all, I would like to thank the WTO Secretariat and the
Government of Liberia for their effective contribution to the
activities of this group and for the coordination of this
ministerial meeting.

It has been a long way since the signature in 2010 of the Dili
Declaration and the inaugural meeting of the g7+ in Timor-
Leste. Since then, Timor-Leste has shown its strong

commitment and support and has been devotedly involved, together with other very active members, in all the activities and initiatives of the organisation. We are honoured of being the host country of the g7+ Secretariat, based in Dili, and we are committed to provide the necessary support to continue contributing to the growing significance of the Organization.

The g7+ was established in recognition by the members that fragile and conflict-affected states are best positioned to learn from one another about the hard-won experiences they have been through. Nowadays, the g7+ has become a well-suited platform to jointly advocate for contextually tailored development policies based on our own experiences and for maximizing the relevance of our collective actions. The endorsement in 2011 in Busan of the “New Deal” for Engagement in Fragile States reflects our joint vision, supported by our partners, aiming to maximize the effectiveness of the assistance from our partners and our collective success.

The establishment of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group in Buenos Aires in 2017 precisely reflects the core principles and the very “raison d’être” of the Organisation. We are honoured of co-lead this group together with the government of Liberia.

Since the establishment of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group, only five years ago, and even with the constraints of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have been able to materialise the goals of the organization through peer learning and cooperation. We have demonstrated our potential to be a hub for economic and development cooperation. Even if there is room for improvement, we have also been able to speak with one voice and promote initiatives that have proven to be of a paramount importance, such as the WTO Trade for Peace Program.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The links between Trade and Peace or the use of Trade as a tool to maintain Peace has been a constant and has proven to be critical throughout history. The European Union itself began as an Economic Pact to trade coal and steel signed after the II World War among former enemies precisely to prevent the repetition of an armed conflict.

The WTO Trade for Peace Program has become one of the keystone initiatives of the g7+ WTO Accessions Working Group. With the unvaluable assistance of the WTO Secretariat, the initiative has achieved great success has received wide support from the trade, peace, and humanitarian communities.

Timor-Leste thinks, as many other members, that it is time to continue calling on WTO Membership to establish a Trade for Peace Programme for Fragile and Conflict-affected States, in the WTO like in other international fora. This Programme have the potential to achieve stability and contribute to the shared goal of prosperity through the effective inclusion of FCSs into the multilateral trade system, reinforcing the links among them and with the rest of the international community.

Even if it will not be possible to have the Trade for Peace Programme initiative included in the Final Declaration of the MC12, we advocate for including a strong statement in the Ministerial Declaration of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group. We also consider that the group should continue persevering with renovated energies to be able to include it in the next MC-13.

I would also like to ask my fellow colleagues to consider the convenience of enlarging the group to other g7+ members but also to ponder the possibility of accepting in the g7+ WTO Accessions Group other Fragile and Conflict-affected States, even if they are not members of the g7+, in a special capacity.

Also, to reinforce the g7+ WTO Accessions group, I would like to propose the possibility of gathering more often, in person or through virtual and hybrid meetings. By doing so we could be able to improve our coordination and to better share experiences and promote new and ongoing initiatives.

Before concluding, I would like to thank again the WTO Secretariat for its continuous support to this group and its initiatives.

Thank you very much.