

Original language Portuguese - Checked against English interpretation

**Statement delivered by
His Excellency Egas Da Costa Freitas
Ambassador for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the Holy See
on the occasion of the
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)
26 June 2019**

On behalf of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I would like to congratulate the Director General elect, Dr Qu Dongyu, and we also congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva outgoing Director General of the FAO for all of his achievements which he has achieved through this major institution of the FAO and that he has led for several years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Timor-Leste is a small country that in the past, and still today, has suffered hunger, climate change, and immigration, which at the time was referred to as displaced persons. We've suffered poverty in our daily lives, differences between rural and urban areas, and we are still facing huge problems.

With the support of FAO at difficult times in Timor-Leste, we have managed to overcome some of these situations. Once again, we reiterate that Timor-Leste still requires FAO's presence in our country.

FAO is a major international forum and from our own experience it is resolving many problems, not just in my country but all over the world. We hope that the new, democratically elected Director General will continue on this great work that has so far, been carried out by the previous Director because, this is still necessary.

Once again, I call upon FAO to continue to remain strong, to continue to show the work of the mission of the church which is: to work and always focus on men and women as the images of God.

Thank you.