



## Press Release



Timor-Leste

### **UNDP SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT**

*SRSG Hasegawa stresses the importance of ensuring fair and transparent process during the 2007 elections*

*Dili /13 October, 2005:* Essential audio-visual, IT equipment and furniture, were handed over to the President of the National Parliament, Mr. Francisco Guterres “Lú-Olo” by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa. The equipment will support the seven Parliamentary Standing Committees to conduct their daily work. The special ceremony was attended by UNDP Country Director, Ms. Naheed Haque, and the Chiefs of Party Benches and Presidents of the Standing Committees of the National Parliament.

Mr. Francisco Guterres “Lu-Olo” expressed his gratitude for UNDP’s continuous support; underlining the key role UNDP has played and is still playing in the institutional capacity development of the National Parliament.

In his intervention Mr. Hasegawa reiterated UNDP’s commitment to support the National Parliament, as one of the “essential institutions ensuring the healthy functioning of the nation’s newly won democracy”, Mr. Hasegawa further acknowledged that the Parliament, has made remarkable progress during the past years, while “demonstrating a strong concern and commitment to the people it embodies”. The UNDP Resident Representative also underlined the numerous challenges the National Parliament will have to face in the future, among these, foremost, the need to ensure fair and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007, as well as to ascertain its government oversight functions, including the scrutiny of the annual national budget. He further emphasized the need for the Parliament, its standing committees, individual representatives and parliament staff to take on more responsibilities on their own to consolidate the democratization process. In conclusion Mr. Hasegawa thanked the National Parliament “for the confidence and trust in UNDP as a development partner” and ensured UNDP’s continued support.