



**STATEMENT BY MR. V.K. NAMBIAR, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SITUATION IN THE EAST TIMOR IN  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON AUGUST 13, 2002**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. May I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the United Kingdom on the outstanding work it did, dispensing with great success a very heavily loaded agenda, during its Presidency.

We thank you for providing us this opportunity to speak to the Council today on the situation in East Timor. It has been almost three months since the attainment of independence by East Timor and the birth of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. As a country in the neighbourhood and as a friend of East Timor, India welcomes the steps that have been taken by the Government of East Timor, with the assistance of United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET), in the direction of establishing democratic traditions and the rule of law as also the building blocks towards economic progress and development. We commend the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and his team for their very creditable work so far.

India was represented at the Independence Day celebrations of East Timor by a high level delegation led by Hon'ble Mr. Omar Abdullah, Minister of State for External Affairs. During his meeting with H.E. Mr. Ramos Horta, Foreign Minister of East Timor, Mr. Abdullah handed over letters of felicitation from the President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister of India addressed to the leaders of East Timor. India offered to East Timor 20 scholarships under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), 10 additional scholarships for study in Indian universities and the deputation of two Indian experts to assist East Timor in its rural development. Mr. Abdullah also conveyed the felicitations of the people and Government of India to H.E. Mr. Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, President of East Timor, and offered to share with East Timor India's own experience in nation building.

We have taken note of the briefing by the Assistant Secretary General. I would like to take this opportunity to express the satisfaction of my government on the role played by the United Nations in bringing East Timor into the comity of nations, and in building the solid foundation of a democratic, viable and stable country. UNMISSET has begun its efforts in earnest to consolidate and strengthen a stable environment in East Timor. My delegation is confident that UNMISSET will continue to maintain the momentum of development, economic reconstruction and institution building in East

Timor. We are happy to note the efforts being made for rehabilitation of returning refugees. The role of Indonesia in this background needs to be commended. At this nascent and critical stage of its existence East Timor requires the support, encouragement and cooperation of the international community. It is also in this context that we call upon member states to extend their support wholeheartedly so as to enable UNMISSET to fulfill its worthy objectives.

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