THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
What are the greatest challenges for governments in implementing the SDGs and How can they accelerate progress?

- Greatest challenges for TL, as seen through our recent VNR, is ensuring accurate, timely data is available. The absence of data makes it very difficult to ensure resources are allocated to the right areas and to ensure acceleration of the 2030 agenda. It is not only data from Government, one of the challenges is how to ensure data collection from all stakeholder, is compiled in one place and is accessible to all and available to help decision makers make evidence based decisions.

- In order to ensure integration and alignment there must be transparency and accountability on resource allocation and results. Information and data must be shared, through common avenues, policies and pledges to provide information are required from all stakeholders.

- Nationalising the SDG indicators and having a core set of outcomes for the 2030 agenda will help focus all on the priority areas, support from all stakeholders is needed for this. This could be facilitated through the SDG working group and also by elevating the SDG working group to a higher body, with representatives from all stakeholders included. The SDG working group should report directly to H.E. Prime Minister.
What are some good examples of policy coherence and cooperation across different levels of government?

- Integrated systems of planning and allocating resources are essential, TL Government has adopted an integrated planning and budgeting framework, which aligns our Strategic Development Plans with the SDG’s (through program budgeting).

- Sectoral medium term plans should be prepared, ensuring all stakeholders of each sector (health, education etc.) work together to develop one plan.

- During 2019/2020 TL will be preparing costed medium term plans, it is important the all stakeholders (NGO’s DP’s etc.) align their plans and resources with the Government Framework.

- Policies requiring that all resources (Government, Civil Society, Development Partners) must be aligned to the Government programs are necessary to ensure that all stakeholders are working for the same outcomes and to allow robust monitoring of results – “One Plan, One Budget” – in line with Paris and Accra of adopting country systems.