

**GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION No. 9/2020
of 19 March 2020**

**CREATES THE EVENTUAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR THE
PREPARATION OF AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A
UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEM FOR TIMORESE CITIZENS**

In line with the global debate on the innovative use of new technologies in developing countries, the project to implement a unique identifier system (also called "Unique ID") for Timorese citizens seeks to accelerate progress in an area of high priority on the international agenda (innovations to accelerate social inclusion and "leave no one behind").

The Unique ID system provides the necessary basis to improve the effective delivery, efficiency and planning of public services and to ensure better management and coordination of social policy, while contributing to the structured construction of e-governance in Timor-Leste, as intended by the Government.

Indeed, such a system has the potential to provoke a transformational effect capable of accelerating the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Timor-Leste. Indeed, the unique identifier system will enable the Government to efficiently manage the delivery of services to citizens, particularly in relation to the administration of grants, transfers and benefits. Timor-Leste being a country with a total population of 1.2 million people where about 60% are below 25 years of age, the assignment of a unique identifier from birth and throughout the life of the citizen can contribute to improve the coherent and systematic delivery of public services, including social protection programs, while reducing overlaps, exclusions by error and bureaucracy.

Simultaneously, the database will be created on which to build the different information systems that will allow the administration to modernize and innovate, better communicate with citizens and accompany them throughout their life cycle when they come into contact with the different State services, particularly with the registry and notary services (for example, to obtain a birth certificate or certificate of good behavior, or to register a car, register real estate, or register a marriage) or health services, education (to enroll in a school), social security, finance, business-related registration and licensing, such as the commercial register, or to obtain business licenses from SERVE.

Although there are several examples of unique identifier systems around the world, there will not be a single model, as the final design of such a system depends on each country's context, vision for the future, and policy choices, among several other factors.

Nevertheless, existing studies in the field and the experience of other countries show that a good implementation of any unique identifier system rests on three fundamental pillars, which are the following:

- a) Articulated and adequate technological solutions for the country context based on a thorough analysis of existing systems and infrastructures, e-governance policies defined by the Government, human capacity and available operational procedures;
- b) An integrated strategy for feasible implementation, including prioritization of activities, planning, enabling legal framework and timeline for realistic and appropriate implementation, to be subsequently submitted to the Council of Ministers
- c) A good governance and coordination structure, guaranteeing the articulation of all and avoiding overlapping activities in the same area.

It is known that, besides the Information and Communication Technologies Agency, I.P. - TIC TIMOR, still building its own technological and human bases and taking the first steps towards the implementation of the strategic plan for electronic governance in Timor-Leste, several other Public Administration structures have been taking, deservedly, initiatives to launch the bases for the computerization of services or the creation of databases of its users.

By intending to launch an articulated project for the implementation of a unique identifier system for Timor-Leste, as a basis for improving the provision of public services, greater social inclusion and the launch of electronic governance, and taking advantage of the recent optic fiber infrastructure launched by the Government connecting 12 municipalities, it is necessary to ensure coordination between all these actors, since overlaps and disarticulation in this matter have no place and result in a waste of many resources and time.

The Government, through the competent ministries, took the initiative to request preparatory studies for the implementation of the unique identifier system, studies that were funded by UNDP Timor-Leste and UNICEF Timor-Leste. These preparatory studies were completed at the end of last year, and rightly postulate a broad articulation of various ministries and services for the harmonious and technically adequate development of the referred unique identifier system.

In the assumption, therefore, that work should start concomitantly on the legal framework necessary for the implementation of the referred system, having assessed the great relevance of such project and making it imperative, therefore, that its implementation be strategically defined and properly articulated, the Government resolves, under the combined terms of sub-paragraphs a) and o) of paragraph 1 of Article 115 of the Constitution of the Republic, and paragraph 4 of Article 5 of Decree-Law No. 14/2018, of August 17, the following:

Article 1

Creation

1. The Eventual Technical Commission for the Preparation of an Integrated Strategy Towards the Implementation of a Unique Timorese Citizen Identifier System, hereinafter referred to as the Eventual Technical Commission, is hereby established as the necessary basis for improved service delivery to citizens, greater social inclusion and the launching of e-governance at national level.
2. The Eventual Technical Commission shall design, within a maximum period of six months, an integrated strategy for the materialization of the unique identifier system referred to in the previous number, together with a detailed implementation plan and respective budget, to be submitted for deliberation by the Council of Ministers.

Article 2
Composition

1. The Eventual Technical Commission is composed of the following members:
 - a) Executive Director of the Information and Communication Technologies Agency, I.P. - TIC TIMOR, who shall chair it;
 - b) Representative of the Ministry of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs;
 - c) Representative of the Ministry of Justice;
 - d) Representative of the Ministry of Finance;
 - e) Representative of the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion;
 - f) Representative of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports;
 - g) Representative of the Ministry of Health
 - h) Representative of the Ministry of State Administration;
 - i) Representative of the Ministry of the Interior;
 - j) Representative of the Civil Service Commission.
2. The representatives of the services and entities listed in subparagraphs b) to j) of the previous number shall be appointed, by order, by the organ or top manager responsible for them, within eight days from the date of entry into force of this resolution.
3. The Eventual Technical Commission shall have the administrative and secretariat support of TIC TIMOR and the technical assistance of the General Directorate of Registry and Notary Services of the Ministry of Justice and the Office of Administrative Innovation of the Ministry of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, as well as any external consultancies to which it may have access.
4. All organs, services, entities and other public bodies shall provide the Eventual Technical Commission with the collaboration it needs for the performance of its tasks and the pursuit of its goals.

Article 3
Entry into force

This resolution shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 19 February, 2020.

Be it published.

The Prime Minister,

Taur Matan Ruak