



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE KAY RALA XANANA
GUSMÃO TO THE SIXTH GLOBAL FORUM UNITED NATIONS
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS, BALI INDONESIA 2014**

Bali, Indonesia

29 August 2014

His Excellency, Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
His Excellency, Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia
His Excellency, John W. Ashe, President of the 68th United Nations General Assembly
His Excellency, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations
His Excellency, Beşir Atalay, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey
His Excellency, R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
His Excellency, Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain

It is a great honour to address this Global Forum in the presence of so many distinguished dignitaries, sharing their commitment to tolerance and peace.

I would like to thank His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his global leadership and contribution to human progress. Two years ago, the Secretary-General visited Timor-Leste and shared his vision of development and peace.

I would also like to acknowledge my dear friend, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Since coming to office ten years ago President Yudhoyono has transformed Indonesia into a thriving and tolerant democracy that draws strength from its diversity. The President has built a foundation that will see Indonesia become one of the top ten economies in the world within the decade.

As a man of peace and humanity, I have no doubt that the President will continue to dedicate his life to public service, democracy and human development.

It is appropriate that this Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is held in Indonesia, a country that is proof that development and peace are possible when diversity and solidarity are both encouraged.

Regrettably, however, we meet against a backdrop of rising of racism, intolerance, extremism and conflict in many other parts of the world where the peace is but a violent nightmare. Dozens of millions are suffering from the horrors of war, from the absolute cruelty of abductions and killings, from exclusion, and from the countless abuses perpetrated in this century of globalization.

While the cold war and colonialism may have passed, the world continues to suffer from new forms of domination and power. There is a dangerous rise in inequality with wealth being accumulated by the few, to the detriment of us all. After the greed and corruption of the international financial system caused the Global Financial Crisis, the faltering economic recovery is only benefiting the very perpetrators of the financial meltdown. The big multinationals also play an improper role acting with dishonesty and bad-faith when they deal with poor countries.

And what we can see is also the economic decay of Europe with high unemployment and crushing sovereign debts. While the best of Africa is emerging, too much of this great continent is beset by deprivation, disease and violence.

The new realities of international power are that a global financial elite is expanding its domination and entrenching the economic segregation of the world's Least Developed Countries. Despite the best efforts of the Secretary General and his team at the UN, as we approach 2015, the nations that are home to over 2.2 billion facing poverty will not achieve even a single Millennium Development Goal.

This level of inequality and injustice cannot be peacefully sustained and so we are seeing the rise of despair and anger which is contributing to intolerance, extremism and radicalism.

After listening to the previous distinguished speakers, I would like to present the perspective of a small, young and Least Developing Country.

Today's trend is that every country, large or small, rich or poor, must demonstrate the same level of international standards, with a policy of 'one size fits all', whatever their conditions or their capability.

International Organizations measure every one and all countries in the same basket, without considering the specificities each one faces in their particular situation or context.

As a result of been too idealistic, the western countries and international organizations pursue the creation of all societies with the same modules of behaviours, mindsets, rules and commitments.

The consequence is that, consciously or unconsciously, the western world and international organizations are very keen to promote war, on behalf of democratic values, and to impose sanctions on behalf of universal principles.

The war in Iraq that destroyed the heritage of an ancient civilisation, in Afghanistan, the foreign intervention in Libya, Egypt and Syria, the European Union support to the demise of the previous elected government in Ukraine, the blind eye policy on the Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed are the concrete and excellent example of the decline of the international standards.

The misguided approaches resulted in unsuccessful waste of money, which don't address the core political and social grievances.

The misguided approaches are unable to respect the sentiment of people, of groups or tribes, which can only express their dissatisfaction by anger, hatred and vengeance.

The misguided approaches always create enemies and fuel radicalism that leads to extremism. And so the tendency of the world politics today is to immediately stigmatize individuals, groups and countries as the enemy of the free world, measured by the weight of their national interests. It seems that there is no time to understand the roots of the problems, which would allow us to address them with a greater human sensitivity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite a depressing global backdrop there are positive stories that inspire hope in an alliance of civilisations. I will mention three examples from our region that give us faith in the promise of human progress.

First, is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which has brought together people from diverse nations, religions and cultures to establish a region of peace, cooperation and development. ASEAN provides a model, and an aspiration, for so many regions of the world even though each member still faces its own internal challenges.

Second, is Indonesia, the largest nation in ASEAN, which itself provides a remarkable model of the possibilities of harmony and human solidarity. While Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, it is also home to many people of different religions. With this beautiful island of Bali predominantly Hindu, the islands around Timor-Leste, including West Timor, are largely Christians. Together, Indonesians of different traditions are sharing a rich and tolerant culture.

My final example, if you allow me, is the Timor-Leste and Indonesia relationship. Together our peoples have moved on from a difficult history, to build bonds of trust and cooperation. Together we have demonstrated that there is not some unbridgeable chasm between people of different ethnicities, cultures or religions.

The Timorese and Indonesians are now brothers and sisters enjoying deep bonds of solidarity. President Yudhoyono deserves much of the credit for leading us on this path to peace. It was only two days ago that he returned from Timor-Leste and his example shows us all the importance of leadership in pursuing an alliance of civilisations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This Global Forum seeks to galvanise international action against extremism through the forging of international, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

To move forward, it is clear that we need a revolution in how the global mainstream thinks about minorities, the marginalised and the poor. We need to address the root causes of extremism and intolerance by tackling inequality, poverty, joblessness, exclusion and discrimination.

We all know that it is easy to stoke tension by feeding off difference and injustice. That is why we must give opportunity to every faction to talk to each other, so that they do not resort to hate and actions of violence. International leaders must radically change their way of looking at the problems in the developing world, as the primary condition to build trust and to minimize hostilities.

In working to find common ground between diverse ethnic and religious groups, we must have faith that the promise of opportunity and the benefits of peace building will bring people together.

The world needs more humanism, conviction, dedication and courage of their leaders to promote the alliance of civilisations and recognition of a shared humanity and a common future.

Thank you very much.

29 August 2014

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão