



PRIME MINISTER

**SPEECH OF
H.E. THE PRIME MINISTER OF
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

AT THE ASEAN – CANADA SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 6th September 2023

Thank you Chair

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable Prime Minister of Canada,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Co-chairs for providing the opportunity for Timor-Leste to observe directly how the partnership of ASEAN and Canada has progressed this year. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia as the chair of ASEAN and all ASEAN member states, for their commitments in our ASEAN accession process.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Malaysia, as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Canada partnership who has further promote a positive political engagement and solid relationship between ASEAN and Canada.

It is welcoming to recognize that Canada fully supports the ASEAN-led regional architecture and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which both has immensely contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Timor-Leste also acknowledges the important stepping up efforts taken to enhance ASEAN-Canada trade and investment through the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment Work Plan of 2021-2025 and the activities of the Canada-ASEAN Business Council.

Timor-Leste enjoys a very good relation both bilaterally and in multilateral fora with Canada. We are looking forward to strengthen this relationship in the future, especially in relations to our full membership to ASEAN.

We appreciate the continues support from all the ASEAN Member States on the accession of Timor-Leste to ASEAN. As we are now focusing our attention on

fulfilling all the necessary requirements for our eventual full membership in the future, we are looking forward to a stronger ASEAN-Canada relationship and to continue to work together with ASEAN and Canada throughout process.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.