



PRIME MINISTER

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

AT THE 13th ASEAN - THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 7th September 2023

Thank you, Co-chairs

Your Majesty,

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Your Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to be here with ASEAN Leaders participating in this important Summit of ASEAN and the United Nations.

As members of the United Nations, we share and observe the same values and principles as stipulated by the UN Charter.

Timor-Leste became the 191st member state of the United Nations when our independence was restored in 2002.

We owe our existence as an independent state to the resilience and determination of our people and to the United Nations.

In the conduct of our international relations, Timor-Leste adheres to the core values of the United Nations – the right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, the permanent sovereignty of peoples over their natural wealth and resources, the protection of human rights, mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and equality between States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

We commend the leadership of His Excellency, António Guterres, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

We believe that there is no better person to lead the United Nations and strive for a better international order that delivers human dignity, justice and equality for all in these current global dynamics.

The principles of the United Nations are, indeed, also enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of Southeast Asia as the code of conduct for cooperation with the ASEAN nations.

A Treaty that Timor-Leste signed in 2007 when we committed to adhere to ASEAN values.

Timor-Leste also supports the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific in which among others, also putting forward the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 as one of its focus areas of cooperation.

We are eager to see more collaboration between ASEAN and the United Nations in the implementation of this shared objectives which will be a major contribution to the region and the global community.

In today's fragmented world, with unprecedented challenges, Timor-Leste continues to believe that *'Right is Might'*.

Timor-Leste supports sovereign rights and international mechanisms such as United Nations Conventions that build trust in the world system and help prevent tensions from escalating to violence.

I thank the ASEAN Leaders and the Secretary General of the United Nations for the opportunity.