



PRIME MINISTER

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

AT THE 11th ASEAN – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 6th September 2023

Thank you, Chair

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN,

Honourable Vice President of the United States of America,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Chair of ASEAN for the invitation to observe the positive partnership between ASEAN and the United States of America, and to deliver this brief remarks.

I would also like to congratulate Indonesia for the excellent work as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-United States of America Dialogue Relations.

Timor-Leste's participation to all of the ASEAN meetings as observer has significantly paved the way for our readiness to be a full member. Hence, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia as the Chair of ASEAN and all the ASEAN Member States, for their support and strong commitments in our accession process.

The United States of America is an important development partner and a very good friend of Timor-Leste. The US and Timor-Leste enjoy excellent bilateral relations based on shared interests and values, and Timor-Leste is committed to strengthening and deepening our partnership.

Timor-Leste is also grateful for the United States' support for our ambition to join ASEAN and we are looking forward to consolidate our collaboration in this regard for our eventual full membership in ASEAN.

Lastly, Timor-Leste appreciates the United States' recognition of ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture and commitment to implement the Plan of Action under the ASEAN-US Dialogue Partnership.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.