



PRIME MINISTER

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

AT THE 26th ASEAN PLUS THREE SUMMIT

Jakarta, Indonesia, 6th September 2023

Your Majesty

Honourable Leaders of ASEAN and the Plus Three Leaders,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chair of ASEAN for the invitation to observe the important dialogue at this 26th ASEAN Plus Three Summit Meeting, and to make this brief remarks. The meeting today has been one of the great opportunities for us to observe and follow the state of cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries, as one of the most comprehensive cooperation frameworks in the region.

Timor-Leste Commends progress made since the establishment of ASEAN plus three mechanisms. This mechanism has strongly contributed to the ASEAN community building initiatives.

ASEAN's partnership with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea has evolved into a multi-billion-dollar trading partnership.

While the ASEAN Plus Three focuses in promoting practical cooperation in areas covering the three pillars of ASEAN community, it has also worked to maintain and enhance peace, security, stability, and development in our region.

As a prospective full member of ASEAN, Timor-Leste values the commitments of the Plus Three nations in maintaining and concretely supporting ASEAN as the epicentrum of global growth.

We also deeply appreciate the unwavering support from all the ASEAN Members States throughout our accession process and we are looking forward continue

strengthen this cooperation with ASEAN and partners for an eventual full membership in the future.

Thank you, Co-Chairs, for this great opportunity and congratulations to all.