



PRIME
MINISTER

**INTERVENTION BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: THE BANDUNG SPIRIT WATER
SUMMIT: “WATER AND PEACE”**

Bali, Indonesia

21 May 2024

Excellencies



Palácio do Governo
Avenida Marginal
Dili, Timor-Leste

Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen

I am very pleased to be able to participate in the Bandung Spirit Water Summit and this High-level Panel: 'Water and Peace'. It is an honour to share the stage with such distinguished leaders and experts.

Almost 70 years after the Bandung Conference brought together leaders from Asia and Africa, we continue to be inspired by the Bandung Spirit. This Spirit embodies the hope and possibility of a post-colonial world of peace, equality and international solidarity.

Today, as we confront global challenges, we could benefit from reflecting on the vision of the great leaders who attended the Bandung Conference, including Nehru, Nasser, Sukarno and Zhou Enlai.

This Bandung Spirit Water Summit also demonstrates how Indonesia continues to play a leading role in global affairs.

Today, 2 billion people lack access to clean water. This is not only a humanitarian emergency, it is a threat to peace and international stability.

It must be understood that without sustainable development – which includes water and sanitation – there can be no peace. And without peace there can be no sustainable development.

Our country, Timor-Leste, learnt this lesson the hard way.

It is sometimes said that 'civilization is only nine meals away from anarchy'. Well, access to water is just as important. Water security is national security. Water security is international security.

Conflict for water has the potential to destroy communities, regions and nations. Without water there can be no economy, no development and no society.

We have already seen a refugee crisis in Europe with hundreds of thousands fleeing conflict in Africa and the Middle East. Just imagine: a water supply collapse would result in even greater human displacement and tragedy.

We also face climate change which will cause severe droughts across the world.

It is a grave injustice that the industrialised world has created a global emergency that will impact poor and vulnerable nations the most.

While the need for water can threaten peace; we are also seeing access to water being used as a weapon of war.

In Gaza, supplies of food and water are being blocked. This is creating a humanitarian disaster, causing great suffering and death.

We must all recognise that access to clean water is a human right.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 provides that by 2030 there will be universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Like the Millennium Development Goals before them, it is most unlikely that the SDGs will be achieved.

We must stop pretending that talking and setting goals is enough.

We need a sustained global effort and real international solidarity to achieve change.

We need the inspiration of the Bandung Spirit to be able to deliver water and sanitation for all - and to build a world of peace.

Thank you very much.