



**P R I M E
M I N I S T E R**

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY
SESSION ON BUILDING BRIDGES: UNLOCKING THE FULL
POTENTIAL OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH THROUGH
MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS**

[10 MINUTES]

**BALI, INDONESIA
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Your Excellency, Minister of National Development, H.E. Suharso Monoarfa

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development, H.E. Rebecca Grynspan
Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to participate in this high-level plenary session on *Building Bridges: Unlocking the Full Potential of the Global South through Multistakeholder Partnerships*.

I would like to express my gratitude to the people and the Government of Indonesia for their warm hospitality and for organising this important forum.

Before I begin, please allow me to extend my congratulations to the Government of Indonesia for the great success in holding the 2024 national elections. The elections reinforced Indonesia's position as one of the world's great democratic states.

I would also like to congratulate President-Elect Prabowo Subianto on his election victory. His overwhelming win demonstrates the trust that the Indonesian people have in his leadership and his vision for Indonesia. I am confident that he will be an outstanding President.

Our region and the world need a prosperous and outward looking Indonesia. With rising geo-political tensions and international fragility and conflict, we need a strong, non-aligned Indonesia to continue to play a positive role in world affairs.

I am also pleased that Her Excellency, Rebecca Grynspan is here today. I was honoured to recently speak at the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva to discuss the role it plays supporting sustainable development and building a fair and inclusive international economic system.

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Excellencies

The Timorese journey to independence was difficult. Like many countries in our region, it was marked by colonialism, interference from the West, triumphs and setbacks.

We became a sovereign nation on 20 May 2002. In our short period of nation-building since this time, we have realised that independence brings with it many challenges.

Peace building and state building are not easy. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the world to lift a nation from the shackles of poverty, colonialism and conflict.

The Timorese people were eventually able to assert our right to self-determination and achieve independence through the international system facilitated by the United Nations.

Today, we must consider whether the international political and economic system is fit for purpose. We must ask if, and how, the Global South can reach its full potential.

We live in a world of uncertainty, complexity and technological change.

A world however, in which there is entrenched poverty, inequality, environmental crisis and widespread human suffering.

A world where conflict rages – from Gaza to Ukraine, from Yemen to Sudan, and from Haiti to a range of fragile countries across the world.

In our own region of Southeast Asia, our sisters and brothers in Myanmar are suffering under the rule of the military junta and democracy has been shattered.

In Timor-Leste we know, from bitter experience, that there can be no development without peace.

As well as global conflict, too many countries in the Global South struggle to build their economies after the plunder of colonialism and the exploitation of globalisation.

While some countries, such as Indonesia, China and India have large emerging economies with strong rates of economic growth, too many Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States have no clear path to development.

This is at the same time that global inequality is rising to obscene levels.

It is unacceptable that the richest ten men in the world own more than the poorest 3.1 billion people.

While we see the concentration of great wealth in the world's rich, many hundreds of millions of people are allowed to suffer extreme hunger.

And we have the climate crisis threatening the very existence of many States.

Developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States, have not caused the global climate crisis, yet we pay the highest price.

We struggle to mitigate and adapt to climate change due to a lack of finance, technology and capacity.

Developed countries in the Global North have failed to deliver on their promises and obligations under international treaties to provide the financial and technical support we need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

They have also failed to provide us the support to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

And so, the Global South continues to be exploited by the global economic system.

Too often, foreign aid – including from the multi-lateral development banks – is provided with conditions that allow the Global North to continue to control the Global South.

This includes the imposition of conditions that infringe on our national sovereignty and our ability to implement country specific development plans.

Too often our natural resources are stolen from us.

It is in the context of this disordered and divided world that we must work out how to unlock the potential of the Global South.

Indonesia has been at the forefront of advocacy for the Global South. This High-Level Plenary Session is the latest example of Indonesia demonstrating leadership on issues of importance to developing and non-aligned countries.

It was Indonesia that first brought together the leaders of newly independent and post-colonial countries from Asia and Africa at the historic Bandung Conference in 1955.

At this Conference, the Global South came together to discuss shared challenges and aspirations and assert sovereignty.

The conference laid the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement and South-South cooperation, raising the possibility of a post-colonial world of peace, equality and international solidarity.

The Bandung Conference, and its reaffirmation at the Havana Conference, introduced principles crucial to South-South cooperation.

These include respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the universal application of international law.

These principles should continue to guide us as we develop new models of multilateral cooperation and multistakeholder partnerships.

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Timor-Leste takes these principles very seriously.

For example, when Australia was blocking our maritime sovereignty – by refusing to negotiate maritime boundaries with us – we initiated the first ever compulsory conciliation process under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In doing so we demonstrated our respect for international law and our confidence in its ability to peacefully resolve disputes.

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This High-level Plenary Session continues the proud tradition of Indonesia building solidarity between the Global South and supporting multistakeholder partnerships.

It is through multistakeholder partnerships that we can re-envision development models and our approaches to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

Timor-Leste understands the benefits of partnership to solve global challenges. Multistakeholder partnerships can help provide finance, technology transfer, capacity building and the collaboration needed to solve common and complex issues.

For example, the partnership approaches being implemented by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development make important contributions to national development.

We also have the g7+ group of 20 fragile countries. This international partnership provides support between fragile countries to help them achieve resilience and peace.

The g7+ effectively advocated for the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 16 – the peace goal.

It is vital that multistakeholder partnerships take into account individual State's national interests, priorities and aspirations.

Most importantly, multistakeholder partnerships must be built on trust.

Trust is the foundation upon which successful cooperation is built—both within the Global South and between the North and the South.

Without trust; division will only increase, weakening cooperation and allowing external interests to influence the direction of our development.

Today, as global diplomacy weakens, we must ensure that South-South cooperation is stronger than ever.

We need to develop new and effective approaches to development by bringing all stakeholders together and aligning their interests with that of national governments and their citizens.

Thank you again to Indonesia for organising this forum and for its support to the Global South.

Working together in partnership, we can re-imagine the development agenda and unlock the full potential of the world's poor and disadvantaged for a better and more peaceful future.

In closing, I note that the UN Secretary-General is holding a Summit for the Future, just before the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I suggest that the outcomes of this Forum, and the voices of the Global South, reach to New York and be heard at this important Summit.

Thank you very much