



PRIME
MINISTER

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**

“IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY, FIGHTING AGAINST EXTREMISM”

United Nations, New York
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Palácio do Governo
Avenida Marginal
Dili, Timor-Leste

Your Excellency, President of Brasil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,
Your Excellency, President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to participate in this High-Level Event about defending democracy and fighting extremism.

It is critical that we come together in international solidarity to protect democratic governance and build peaceful and inclusive societies.

It is only in this way that we can fight the root causes of extremism.

Today's world is increasingly divided, volatile and disordered.

We are seeing great concentrations of wealth at the same time that billions of people are struggling with extreme poverty and hunger.

Globalisation is benefiting the few and costing the many.

We are seeing the breakdown in international norms of behaviour as powerful countries ignore international law at will.

And we see fragile and conflict affected countries struggle to survive after being left behind by the international community.

This is fueling widespread resentment, desperation, extremism and hate.

In our country, we learnt the hard way that democracy is only possible if there is a foundation of peace and development.

In Timor-Leste, it was only after we went through a difficult process of reconciliation and peace building that we were able to build a free and democratic nation in Southeast Asia.

We learnt that to fight extremism we needed to address the root causes of conflict.

This process meant conducting a national dialogue and listening to the people that felt left behind.

There is no easy way to fight extremism. You cannot 'war yourself to peace'.

Instead, we must address the economic and social structures that divide us and that drive inequality and conflict.

We need to build the economic conditions that create jobs and opportunities that provide hope to people and their families.

We need to learn from each other and support each other to build strong institutions and State capacity to provide health and education services to people.

And we must not leave any countries behind. Fragility and conflict breed extremism.

That is why we established the g7+, a group of 20 fragile and conflict affected countries that have come together to share experiences and speak with one voice to the international community.

We must build resilience and hope in fragile countries to support democracy and prevent the growth of international extremism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Extremism feeds on fear and division, but democracy thrives on inclusion and hope.

In today's complex and uncertain world, we must all embrace the values of tolerance, education and dialogue.

Together, we must act with solidarity to promote peace and development and affirm the possibility of hope.

Thank you.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão