



PRIME  
MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**Alliance of Small Island States' (AOSIS) Leaders' Meeting on the  
sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

685 Third Avenue, New York  
23 September 2024

Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to participate in this AOSIS Leaders' Meeting.

Decades ago the international community recognised the unique geographical and situational challenges faced by SIDS.

This reality has been consistently reaffirmed not only in multilateral conferences but also in international legally binding instruments.

However, the implementation of the commitments necessary to support SIDS continues to fall short.

Climate change has further exacerbated development challenges faced by SIDS. Some of us may lose our entire land territories due to rising sea levels.

Excellencies,

Our challenges are immense, but we are resilient. Together, we are stronger than the problems we face.

We believe that by standing united in solidarity, we can collectively work to shift the international agenda in ways that protect our rights and interests and allow us to pursue sustainable development which respects the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

We stand in full support of the AOSIS Leaders' declaration on Sea-Level Rise and Statehood.

Timor-Leste also stands with you in calling for the establishment of a new financial mechanism that benefits all SIDS equitably, including the most vulnerable.

We must also ensure that developed countries comply with their responsibilities under international law to support our sustainable development goals, while respecting our right to develop our resources and define our path towards sustainable development.

Excellencies,

Timor-Leste fully supports the implementation of ABAS.

Yesterday, we took part in the Summit of the Future and adopted the 'Pact for the Future'. Timor-Leste hopes that the Pact will be able to put an end to the inconsistent approaches of the current complicated international system and provide a more realistic framework to deal with the diverse and complex situations that the AOSIS countries are facing.

Until then, however, we must continue to argue that in a just, fair and sustainable future no nation can be left behind.

Thank you.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão