



Statement

**H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
Prime Minister of Timor-Leste**

g7+ Summit

“Peace in the world and peace in the g7+ countries: Shared Challenges and Solutions”

Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio, President of the Republic of
Sierra Leone, the chairing country of the g7+,

Excellencies Heads of Delegations of g7+ Countries,

All protocol observed,

It is an honour to address this summit, where we come together not merely as representatives of nations, but as a community united by fellowship, solidarity, and our shared commitment to peace and stability.

Fourteen years ago, it was this very solidarity that brought us together to form the g7+, with the mission to support one another in our pursuit of peace.

With the mottos, “There is no development without peace” and “Goodbye conflict, welcome development,” we pledged to pursue peace against all odds. Through the principle, “Nothing about us without us,” we called upon the global community to respect our unique perspectives and contexts in peacebuilding and state-building.

United in our shared challenges, we have supported each other in hard times and shared our lessons on the pathway to peace.

Today, I am encouraged by the progress in Somalia, Togo, Chad, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, and São Tomé and Príncipe, and we honour the resilience of the people across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Caribbean.

We take pride in Sierra Leone’s non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council and Somalia’s upcoming term, confident that our members’ perspectives provide meaningful lessons to global peace and security.

I commend leaders in our member countries for their tireless efforts towards peace and salute the resilience of their people.

However, we must also acknowledge the setbacks.

I was deeply saddened when South Sudan, after years of struggle for independence, relapsed into conflict. I visited the country just before the crisis and warned both the leaders and the people about the devastating consequences of war.

Sadly, we have since witnessed the profound suffering of innocent people over the past years.

I feel heartbroken witnessing the immense suffering of innocent Yemenis caught in the devastation of war.

I am deeply saddened to see millions of Afghans forced by conditions there to flee their homeland, driven by poverty stemming from the international community's failure to achieve lasting stability.

I mourn each time conflict erupts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a nation abundant in natural resources yet tragically mired in poverty.

I am saddened to see that more than half of Haiti's population lives below the poverty line, enduring the hardships of lawlessness and insecurity.

These are just a few examples of the suffering in our countries.

It angers and disappoints me to witness the international community's failure to offer meaningful support.

Yet, I am equally disheartened by the inability of leaders and people to choose the path of peace and stability.

I have personally witnessed the potential for peace in these countries.

It is true that many of our countries have become battlegrounds for proxy wars waged by dominant global and regional powers. However, it is also true that the conditions for these conflicts arise from our own lack of cohesion and unity.

We must bridge these divisions!

We need to reconcile our differences!

We must have the courage to initiate a process of truth-telling.

And we must be willing to forgive one another, closing the chapter on a bitter past to pave the way for a brighter future!

We achieved this in Timor-Leste. After 24 years of occupation by Indonesia, we did not merely survive; we transformed into a nation committed to peace and stability. This transformation stemmed not from convenience but from the courage to confront our past. Through truth-telling, dialogue, and reconciliation, we confronted the pain of our history.

It was not an easy path; it required us to forgive, to heal, and to rebuild. Today, our peaceful and cooperative relationship with Indonesia, a country that occupied us for 24 years, stands as a testament to the power of reconciliation.

This month, His Holiness Pope Francis honoured us with a visit, acknowledging our "assiduous efforts to achieve full reconciliation with brothers and sisters in Indonesia". This was not just a moment of recognition but a validation of the path we chose — one of peace over division.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We live in a time where geopolitical tensions have reached alarming heights, fragmenting the international order and threatening the very foundation of global cooperation and multilateralism. Our countries risk becoming pawns in a game of hegemonic contests.

As leaders, it is our duty to unite our societies to counter external forces that seek to exploit our fractures. As we gather here today, let us reaffirm our commitment to these principles with renewed vigour. Let us use this platform of the g7+ not just to discuss but to act!

In conclusion, it is with great pride that I announce our intention to host a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the g7+ next year in Dili, Timor-Leste, marking the 15th anniversary of our group's establishment. This gathering will be more than a celebration; it will be an opportunity to reflect on our journey, to renew our commitment, and to chart a bold course for the future.

Thank you, and may our efforts today lay the bedrock for a future where peace is not just a dream but a reality for all!

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão