



PRIME
MINISTER

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

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE ASEAN – CANADA SPECIAL
SUMMIT ON ENHANCING ASEAN CONNECTIVITY AND
RESILIENCE**

(Delivered by His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation)

Vientiane, Lao PDR

10 October 2024

Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE

Honourable ASEAN Leaders

The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Your Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN

Ladies and gentlemen,

Timor-Leste commends the efforts of ASEAN and Canada to foster a robust strategic partnership aims at mutually beneficial collaboration and deepening cooperation under the ASEAN three pillars.

Today's ASEAN Canada Special Summit on Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity and Resilience is essential in fostering ASEAN's relations with external partners and ensuring that ASEAN remains a key player in regional and global affairs.

By focusing on areas such as infrastructure development, economic integration and people to people exchanges, ASEAN will create a more cohesive and resilient community capable of addressing current and future challenges and maintaining a strong presence in regional and global affairs.

Sustainable development is a key focus for Timor-Leste, and we welcome the support of Canada to our region. As a country vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Timor-Leste also welcomes collaborative efforts to address this global challenge.

In conclusion, Timor-Leste strongly supports the positive and productive relationship between ASEAN and Canada.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with Canada including through the ASEAN-Canada cooperation framework.

Thank you, Chair.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão