



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

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

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN – US SUMMIT**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

11 October 2024

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE

Honourable ASEAN Leaders,

The Honourable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America

Your Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN,

Ladies and gentlemen

First of all, I express our solidarity with the people suffering from the tragedy happening in Florida at the moment.

Timor-Leste appreciates the comprehensive overview of the progress made in implementing the ASEAN-US Strategic Partnership and Plan of Action across various cooperation programs.

We welcome the commitment to deepen cooperation in the pillars of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which underscores the importance of the United States as a strategic partner for ASEAN.

Timor-Leste recognises the importance of this partnership to tackling global challenges including climate change and sustainable development.

Timor-Leste and the United States share strong bilateral relations based on shared interests and values.

The United States is also a significant development partner that provides technical assistance across a range of sectors.

Timor-Leste looks forward to continuing to work with the United States and participating in the ASEAN-US cooperation framework.

Timor-Leste hopes that the United States, as a global leader, can take concrete measures to help an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, demanding all parties to sit together to achieve peace in the Middle East, through the recognition of two states. The suffering of the Palestinian people must end.

I went to the Ukraine Peace Summit and I was most disappointed because the real issue was not how to achieve peace but how to continue to supply weapons to Ukraine with the objective to win the war by defeating the enemy.

But we cannot be happy if there are people suffering and dying.

In conclusion, please allow me to wish the United States the best of success in holding the Presidential election next month.

Timor-Leste thanks the United States for its support and we look forward to our continued cooperation and friendship.

Thank you, Chair.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão