



PRIME
MINISTER

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

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE ASEAN LEADERS' INTERFACE
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ASEAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

9 October 2024

Esteemed ASEAN Leaders

Your Excellency, President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

Members of Parliament and Secretary-General of the AIPA,

Honourable Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to participate in this important interface with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Timor-Leste has been an observer at the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly since 2018 in Singapore.

We have witnessed the Assembly encourage dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among member parliaments.

We also commend the Assembly's work in helping to harmonise and strengthen legislative frameworks to align with ASEAN standards and practices.

We have seen how the Assembly's recommendations help national parliaments translate regional priorities into national laws and policies.

The National Parliament of Timor-Leste is supporting regional agreements.

We have established an ad-hoc committee tasked with ratifying ASEAN agreements and protocols, enacting relevant legislation, monitoring the implementation of these agreements, and representing the interests of the Timorese people in regional forums.

By actively participating in AIPA activities, we have gained insights and learnt good practices that will further strengthen our legislative processes and governance structures.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm Timor-Leste's commitment to completing our internal processes for acceding to the priority agreements across the three ASEAN Community pillars by next year.

We look forward to continued collaboration with ASEAN Members of Parliament and development partners as we work towards our full membership of ASEAN.

Thank you, Chair.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão