



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

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Mr President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would also like to start by congratulating Your Excellency Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande, on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, for your election as President of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are certain that your able leadership will bring a successful conclusion to the session.

I wish to also transmit our gratitude and congratulations to H.E Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, for her leadership of the 73rd General Assembly and the success attained against her objectives.

My delegation appreciates and congratulates you Mr President on your choice of theme for this Session. Both the theme and your chosen priorities, reflect the great global challenges we face, in particular the eradication of poverty, respect for human rights, inclusion and the prevention of conflict as well as climate change.

We are profoundly grateful to Secretary General Antonio Guterres, for having convened the Climate Action Summit, and brining attention of the world to this great crisis faced by humanity. Timor-Leste similar to SIDS, feels the effects of climate change, including in our coastal zones, on our crop yields due to the extension of the dry season and in the destruction caused by intense natural disasters.

Mr President

Excellencie, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. We need to save our planet from the effects of climate change and global warming. Unfortunately to date we have not changed our behaviour on a large enough scale to prevent climate change on our planet.
2. However, if we join efforts, we believe that in the years that remain we can ensure that global warming is below 1.5 degrees. And although our emission is below 0.003% of global CO2 emissions, Timor-Leste is committed to contributing to global mitigation, through the use of renewable energies such as hydro, solar and biomass.
3. My government is currently working on policies, laws and regulations related to climate change, including a policy on Disaster Risk Management and a law on renewable energy. With regards other sector to do with mitigation we are working on Conservation of our Forests and Promotion of Organic Farming. In the context of adaptation, Timor-Leste has formulated a National Adaptation Action Plan, whose priorities are being implemented at the local and community level. We appeal to all, especially the large emitters to adopt necessary measures to stop global warming.

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

4. Four years ago we adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have a little over 10 years to attain the necessary transformation through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unfortunately we are failing in our progress to meet some of the targets. Inequalities and poverty continues. We adhere fully to the Decade for Action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with poverty eradication, promotion of equality, peaceful inclusive and just societies being fundamental priorities.
5. *Poverty eradication* is our key target that has been included in our National Strategic Development Plan, for short, medium and long-term program to implement and reinforce our

social, economic, infrastructure development and institutional framework transformations. Because of this, we will continue to improve our condition to attract opportunities for investment and diversify our social-economic development such as education, health care, reduction mortality, child nutrition, and job creation for peoples. Through this national strategy, we will eradicate and liberate the people from poverty and unemployment.

6. With regards environmental protection, including marine conservation, Timor-Leste has adopted a *“Zero Plastic Policy”*, which is one of our national campaigns against pollution. We are also in the process of establishing a plastic recycling which will turn our country plastic neutral. We have two marine protected areas (MPAs) which covers more than 586 square kms of our seas. We are blessed with a sea of high marine bio-diversity, and a cetacean migration corridor, whose protection forms an integral part of our tourism and blue economy policy. The second UN Ocean conference to be held next year in Lisbon, together with the UN Decade for Ocean Science and Sustainable Development will give us an opportunity to evaluate progress in the implementations of SDG14 and our continued protection of the Oceans.
7. My country acknowledges and fully supports, the current multilateral negotiations on the Biodiversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and we hope that it results in collective consensus through an International Legally Binding Instrument to ensure the sharing of benefits in this “common heritage of mankind”.

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

8. It is also for International Peace, Stability and Security that has brought us together today here in New York. The Timor-Leste delegation is certain that the international community continues to strive to finding solutions to the issue of Palestine, Western Sahara, Syria and Yemen and the Korean Peninsula as well as other conflicts.

9. With regards to the Korean Peninsula, we congratulate North and the United States of America for the political dialogue for peace as well as the efforts undertaken by South Korea. We hope that the political dialogue will continue to guarantee peace, security, regional stability and to reduce nuclear tensions in the region.

10. Timor-Leste reaffirms its support for a two state solution to the question of Palestine and appeals to the international community to continue efforts towards a just, peaceful, and long lasting solution enabling Palestine to be a full independent state.

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

11. The Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism designated by the General Assembly is due to end next year in 2020. After Timor-Leste, it has not been possible to date to have removed any of the other 17 non-self governing territories from the list. We recognize the efforts made by the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Western Sahara, Mr Horst Kohler. We hope that when the new Envoy is nominated, the rounds of talks can resume and that a political and legal solution can be found, which will permit the people of Western Sahara to exercise their inalienable right to self determination.

12. Timor-Leste continues to be concerned with the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed against Cuba for more than six decades and has caused considerable impact in the lives of the people of Cuba and the development of the country. Timor-Leste firmly supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo and also opposes any extra-territorial measures.

13. With regards to Syria, we hope that the agreement reached between the government and the representatives of the opposition for the establishment of a Constitutional Commission, can bring results to end the war that has brought terrible suffering to the civilian population, particularly women and children.

Mr President, Excellencies Ladies and Gentleman

14. I take this opportunity to provide a brief general update of my country. Our young democracy is continues to assert itself. The numerous elections that have taken place in the country confirm our evolution. As peaceful democratic country, we continue to engage in building a state based on the rule of law, good governance, strengthening state institutions, promoting human rights and gender equality, and combating poverty.

15. Last month on the 30th August my country celebrated the 20th anniversary of referendum 1999 organized by United Nations. And today, September 27th is the anniversary of our full membership of the United Nations. Since 2002, we have been proud members of the UN. We have a historical interconnectivity with the United Nations, not only for our referendum for self-determination, but also for its support of Timor-Leste's struggle. The United Nations has a special place permanently in our hearts.

16. Recently in Dili, my Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Taur Matan Ruak and the Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison concluded the process of our maritime boundary delimitation through an "*Exchange Note*" on the ratification of maritime boundary treaty.

17. Gender equality and parity are fundamental objectives of our state. We have reached significant achievements with regards women's political participation where 38% of our Parliamentarians are women. We have adopted an action plan on gender based violence which includes an integrated program of victim support, promotion of economic empowerment programs and awareness raising campaigns. We also have an Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women, Peace and Security. The commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Plan of Action will give us an opportunity to together take stock on progress achieved, and obstacles, and challenges to implementation.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

18. Timor-Leste continues to have strong special ties of friendship and co-operation with our nearest neighbours Indonesia and Australia. We have deepened our relations with not only Indonesia and Australia, but also all ASEAN members and we await serenely for a decision about our request to accede this organization. We maintain also privileged ties of friendships and cooperation with the countries of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries of which are proud to be an integral part of. We are certain that the Portuguese language, spoken by around 268 million people worldwide, will also be the next official language of the United Nations.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

19. Timor-Leste continues to promote peace building and state building through the sharing of experiences on reconciliation and justice, solidarity, and through technical assistance on elections with the member states of the g7+. He g7+ is an inter-governmental platform, composed of countries emerging from or in conflict. We hope that the g7+ can become an

observer member of the General Assembly. We appeal to all member states to except this request. Timor-Leste is also committed to and is preparing to contribute with police and military contingents to peace operations.

On the 30th of August this year we commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the Popular Consultation, organized by the UN. Last week on the 27th of September we celebrated the 17th Anniversary of our admission as full member of the United Nations. We have a historic relationship with the UN. The UN has a permanent and very special place in our hearts and in the collective memories of the people of Timor-Leste.

Mr President Ladies and Gentleman

To conclude I wish to emphasize that Timor-Leste continues to be the example of what the UN does best – resolving conflicts and maintaining peace and the international rules based order, when the member states join forces. The five Summits of the High Level Segment alerted us to the huge challenges we face today. The High Level Meetings on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Universal Health Coverage, Financing for Development, the Mid term review of the SAMOA Pathway and Climate Action Summit , which require collective action, cooperation and joint efforts, requires renewed political will and solidarity so that we can be effective and can ensure that all our citizens, including women, children and the elderly can benefit from the promise of the 2030 Agenda and live a life of dignity and peace.

I Thank You.