



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

STATEMENT BY:

H.E. MR. KARLITO NUNES
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-
LESTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

(AGENDA ITEM 85)

THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 12th, 2021

Check against delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Timor-Leste wishes to congratulate you, Madam Chair, and the bureau members for your election to lead the 6th committee, and rest assured You of Timor-Leste's full support.

Timor-Leste associates with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madam Chair,

The pandemic COVID-19 has magnified underlying vulnerabilities of the countries health system, socioeconomic conditions, Domestic violence, and inequality of access to essential services and the justice systems. The crisis has undermined governments' efforts to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Timor-Leste welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in document A/76/235, underlined the critical engagement of the United Nations and the collective efforts to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Madam Chair,

Timor-Leste embraced the core value of building a society based on social justice and guaranteed that the basic needs of our people are met in an equal and equitable manner as reflected in our constitutional mandate to build and promote values of freedom, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

We are conscious that peace, justice, and strong institutions will direct our pathway to reflect the other development issues and create the conditions for economic growth and are the foundation for decent work, health, and education to realize the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Therefore, through our engagement with the g7+ group, we strongly advocate for SDG16 as we view that rule of law can only be the way to foster social cohesion and governance system by improving and consolidating democratic institutions to be more efficient as well as promoting public participation and enhancing mechanism of accountability.

Timor-Leste sees the progress towards the fulfillment of SDG16 is even more urgent now than before. We wish to emphasize our full support for the realization of the Secretary-General recommendations on "Our Common Agenda" to deliver the 2030 Agenda and to promote a new vision for the rule of law, which recognize justice as an essential dimension of the social contract and ensuring access to justice for all and

mainly to ensure that we deliver justice close to those vulnerable and marginalized group by upholding leaving no one behind's principle.

Timor-Leste once again reiterates its strong commitment to promoting the rule of law and democracy, and we are devoting our effort to reforming our justice systems. Mobile courts have been introduced in four municipalities of Timor-Leste to reach communities in remote areas outside the capital that have proven to be effective in reducing pending criminal cases.

Timor-Leste's customary practices have received international recognition based on the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, 2019, in resolving disputes and promoting community cohesion. Timor-Leste supported the adoption of the Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 and the Constitution recognizes and values customary law and heritage. Despite the progress we have made, we still grappling with daunting challenges such as the harmonization of our formal and customary law in practice and securing justice and building strong institutions; we, therefore, welcome the sharing of best practices and experiencing from others to advance our justice sector through training and capacity building as well as to harmonize the formal and customary practices in our justice systems to ensure greater access to justice of our citizens.

Madam Chair

To conclude, Timor-Leste keeps consolidating its democratic institutions and ensuring that national development is inclusive, balanced, and meets the need of all citizens while being consistent with the commitment to "leave no one behind."

Timor-Leste underlines the essence of international cooperation and solidarity to work together to address the current and future crises and strengthen justice system and the rule of law for the benefit of our humanity.

I thank you, Madam Chair