



**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**

(AGENDA ITEM 84)

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Timor-Leste wishes to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, and the bureau members for your election to lead the Sixth Committee, and I assure you of Timor-Leste's full support.

Timor-Leste associates with the statements made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Coordinator of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

Mr. Chair,

Timor-Leste appreciates the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating the United Nations rule of law activities. We emphasized the crucial importance of international cooperation to advance the rule of law at both national and international levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant harm to humanity. Climate crises, as well as the current consequences of war in Ukraine, have also hampered our ability to progress transformation and hold ourselves accountable to the commitment we made to collectively secure international peace and security, uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter, and place our faith in democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

Timor-Leste embraces the core value of constructing a society based on social justice and ensures that our people's basic needs are met in an equal and equitable manner. The Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda proposes a new vision for the rule of law that recognizes justice as an essential part of the social contract, ensuring access to justice for all and delivering justice close to vulnerable and marginalized groups, leaving no one behind.

We believe that peace, justice, and strong institutions will steer our course and direct our pathway for economic and social progress, and serve as foundation for decent work, health, and education for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Covid 19 pandemic confirms that our efforts to build trust and social cohesion have paid off, and that investment in peace, justice and inclusion is key for recovery from the crises. This is an ongoing effort and we must keep strengthening inclusive institutions to deliver justice at both national and international levels.

Mr. Chair,

Timor-Leste's Constitution explicitly proclaims the country's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, with the principles of equality and inclusion underpinning our young democratic nation. Women and men enjoy equal rights and obligations in all aspects of family, political, economic, social, and cultural life, and the death penalty is prohibited by law. While Timor-Leste has made significant progress in ensuring women's equal access and opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, more needs to be done to mobilize the will, ways, and means to accelerate the full enjoyment of human rights and to ensure justice to everyone, particularly to address the issue of violence against women and women's equal access to land ownership.

Mr. Chair,

We have our moral obligations to uphold the United Nations Charter, International Law and International Rules-based Order, respecting territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Our deliberations should not be contrary to the values of protecting and defending human rights and the legitimate interests of member states at the national, regional, and global level.

As a small island nation, Timor-Leste has devoted its trust in the United Nations and in multilateralism. Our history has proven the effectiveness of application of the international law to settle dispute through dialogue and reconciliation. We have set a precedence for a peaceful

settlement of disputes with the application of the UNCLOS compulsory conciliation mechanism to settle our maritime boundary. This important effort represents our commitment in contributing towards the promotion of peace, cooperation and the rule of law in the region. If all member states adhere to this fundamental principle, we create a vast space for international peace and security, which in turn fosters international collaboration and prosperity.

Mr. Chair

To conclude, despite the progress we have made, we are still grappling with daunting challenges such as the harmonization of our formal and customary law in practice, securing justice and building strong institutions.

Timor-Leste continues to strengthen its justice system and the process of decentralization, as well as to build capable and effective institutions at all levels that promote inclusiveness, investment, and the consolidation of peace and stability.

As a result, we welcome the exchange of best practices and experiences from others in order to enhance our justice sector through training and capacity building, as well as to reconcile formal and customary practices in our justice systems to ensure that our residents have greater access to justice.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.