



Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste  
to the United Nations in New York

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dionisio Babo Soares  
Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste  
to the United Nations

**Sixth Committee of the Seventy-ninth session of the UN General Assembly**

**Item 84: The rule of law at the national and international levels**

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*Check against delivery*

Mister Chair,

I congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation. As we align ourselves with the statements delivered by Iran and Austria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law respectively, we wish to emphasize Timor-Leste's commitment to the rule of law, both nationally and internationally.

We are dedicated to building a society based on social justice, ensuring equal access to justice, and promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law for all. Our constitutional mandate echoes this commitment, and we are working tirelessly to implement legal reforms, strengthen institutions, and improve our legal system.

With Brazil's assistance, we have fortified the Public Defender's Office to safeguard vulnerable individuals' access to justice. Timor-Leste also champions gender equality, with women and men enjoying equal rights and opportunities under the law. However, we recognize the need to address violence against women and ensure equal access to land ownership.

To tackle the backlog of cases, we are enhancing human resources, court access, and deliveries, as well as conducting mobile courts to bring justice to remote areas. International cooperation is vital, and we thank Portugal for hosting 15 Timorese scholars pursuing Master's Degrees to join our magistrature upon their return.

As a Small Island Developing State, Timor-Leste relies on the multilateral system and rules-based international order. We celebrate 25 years of independence, achieved through negotiated self-determination. Our national legislation adheres to international law, and we have implemented numerous legislative reforms to align with global conventions.

We are party to over 60 international rule of law instruments, including the Rome Statute and the Paris Agreement. Timor-Leste advocates for peaceful dispute resolution, urging parties to cease hostilities and seek peaceful solutions within international law frameworks.

We defend and promote the right to self-determination, remembering those in Palestine and Western Sahara who have yet to realize this inalienable right. We call on states to end unilateral coercive measures, lift embargos on Cuba and Venezuela, and adhere to international law, respecting human dignity and avoiding civilian casualties.

To conclude, Timor-Leste urges UN member states to unite in respecting international law and the rule of law. Timor-Leste stands ready to cooperate with the UN and its member states to continue work to firm our adherence to international law and the rule of law.

I thank you.

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