



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

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

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. You can count on Timor-Leste's full support as you guide our work during this 80th session.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever, and for whatever purpose committed, constitutes a grave violation of international law and of human rights. It is utterly unjustifiable.

Equally, terrorism must never be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation, or ethnic group. Linking terror to identity fuels mistrust and alienation, deepening the divisions that violent extremists seek to exploit.

Terrorism transcends the battlefield. It targets the innocent to sow fear and manipulate policy. It takes root not in inclusive, peaceful societies, but where poverty, exclusion, and despair persist. When people lack access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods – when they feel unheard or excluded – they become more vulnerable to radical narratives, which increasingly circulate online and exploit emerging technologies.

Our response must therefore be comprehensive. Security measures alone cannot eradicate extremism. We must invest in inclusive

development that creates opportunity, strengthens governance, and builds social cohesion. Peacebuilding and nation-building must go hand in hand with policing and intelligence work to bridge divides between communities and the State and to rebuild trust where it has been eroded.

A critical part of this approach is cutting off the financial lifelines of terrorism. Illicit financing, whether through money laundering, tax havens, or organised crime, enables recruitment and attacks. Stronger financial oversight, regulation of informal exchanges, and regional cooperation to track cross-border transactions are essential.

Distinguished Delegates,

International cooperation remains indispensable. Terrorist networks exploit porous borders and legal loopholes; only through shared intelligence, harmonised legal frameworks, and joint operations can we stay ahead of evolving threats. In this regard, our Council of Ministers approved Timor-Leste's accession to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, along with related instruments on mutual legal assistance and extradition. This marks an important milestone in our integration into regional security frameworks.

At home, Timor-Leste continues to translate these commitments into action. We are modernising our National Police and strengthening the technical capacity of our Scientific and Criminal Investigation Police. Intelligence-led operations in Oecusse-Ambeno have disrupted offshore scam networks and blocked illicit investments, demonstrating how combating organized crime supports counterterrorism. We also draw upon our peacebuilding legacy, shaped in partnership with the United

Nations, to ensure that our security policies remain firmly rooted in civilian and human rights perspectives.

Chair,

As we strengthen our collective response, we must remain vigilant that counterterrorism measures do not undermine the very values we seek to protect. Efforts to eliminate terrorism must fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law and must be nationally owned and community-driven. When security, development, and human rights advance together, we build societies that reject terror not only in law but in spirit.

Timor-Leste looks forward to the upcoming review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We stand ready to work with all partners to make our region, and our world, more peaceful, resilient, and just.

Thank you.