



**STATEMENT BY  
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PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

**AT THE 144<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE OF THE  
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**“Getting to Zero: Mobilizing Parliaments To Act On  
Climate Change”**

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*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

Over the last decades, the world has experienced major transformation, politically and economically and although many global challenges remain and have grown complexity in particular the environment degradation, the ever increase climate change and the inevitable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDG.

Similar to other countries, the pandemic lockdowns enormously affect our social and economy sector, causing a contraction of 7.8% in 2020 and only a predicted small increase of 1.8% for 2021. Higher cost for foods products has caused a rise in inflation. It has been forecasted that it will rise from 0.5% in 2021 to 2.0% in 2022. To address the challenges, Timor-Leste has mounted a robust response, implemented several economic stimulus packages to reinforce public health measures and protecting vulnerable households and business sector through subsidies and incentives.

Besides, in order to recover from the pandemic, the government roll the vaccinations, for which around 72.2% of the populations have been fully vaccinated, meanwhile, approximately 85.0% have received the first dose, 1,9% have received Booster Dose.

Excellencies,

Timor-Leste has been experiencing massive floods, droughts, landslides, fire hazards and other extreme weather events. These climate change impacts lead to decrease in agriculture

production, food insecurity, water shortage and destruction of infrastructure. Last year, Timor-Leste was hit by the tropical cyclone Seroja on 4<sup>th</sup> April, causing loss of human lives and losses and damages of properties. It was estimated that this climate induced disaster caused economic, infrastructure and agricultural losses and damages approximately \$200 million.

Climate change is caused by all of us. However, majority of the past and current greenhouse gas emissions is mainly from the developed countries and major economic countries. Timor-Leste is only responsible for 0.003% of greenhouse gas emissions compared to the global emission one. Nevertheless, we are now more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In this regards, we urge the developed country parties to take the lead in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and other major emitting countries to do so, in order to achieve net-zero global emission by 2050 as it was agreed at COP26 of the UNFCCC in Glasgow, United Kingdom last year.

Excellencies,

The National Parliament of Timor-Leste has been fully engaged in providing related national legislations such; Ratification of UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement is an example of our contribution to tackle climate change issues, in order to ensure sustainable development.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm Timor-Leste's long-standing advocacy for the need to create resilience to these climate adversities and to continue striving for sustainable development as a pathway to promote and protect the rights of

all. In this regard, Timor-Leste calls for 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 in a life of dignity and peace, for the well-being of humanity.

I thank you