



Assembly

General debate

Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations

Intervention by the Parliamentary Delegation of Timor-Leste by Mrs. CEDELIZIA FARIA DOS SANTOS

Excellency Mr./Ms. President,
Distinguished Presidents of Parliaments,
Dear Parliamentary Colleagues,

First of all, the Delegation of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste wishes to express its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for its generous hospitality and the excellent organization of this 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

We also thank the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for his dedicated and exemplary performance of his mandate.

It is with profound honor that our delegation participates in this Assembly. As one of the youngest nations in the world, which regained its independence after decades of struggle, we bring a message of hope: peace and justice are not inherited, but daily achievements that we must cultivate for future generations.

Our National Parliament, elected by proportional representation in a country of approximately 1.3 million inhabitants, is a pillar of democratic consolidation. With 65 parliamentarians, we promote multipartisanship and the peaceful alternation of power. Our Constitution strengthens stability, governance, and public confidence.

The Government has prioritized laws and policies that incorporate intergenerational sustainability, in line with the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (PEDN) and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We highlight the Basic Environment Law, the National Forest Policy, the National Territorial Planning Plan, and the recent Strategic Orientation for the Blue Economy Policy and Action Plan 2025-2030.

Timor-Leste's parliamentary diplomacy has been an active instrument of peace. We share our experience of post-conflict peacebuilding at the United Nations and in the g7+, and we promote dialogue as a method of conflict resolution through the CPLP, our partnership with the European Union, and bilateral agreements.

The accession to ASEAN, formalized in October 2025, and to the World Trade Organization represent historic milestones that strengthen our sovereignty and our active participation in mechanisms of dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation. This dual integration process positions Timor-Leste as an active partner in the promotion of peace and justice, strengthens parliamentary diplomacy, and creates a stable economic environment for development, political stability, and global integration.

All of this demonstrates that small nations, like Timor-Leste, can serve as bridges of peace and justice.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Timor-Leste nevertheless faces real challenges, to which it has responded with integrated and proactive approaches, through:

- Social protection programs, particularly the specific support for pregnant women and children up to 3 years of age to combat malnutrition;
- The establishment of a 30% quota for women in politics, which is currently reflected in 38% of women parliamentarians in our Parliament (25 women parliamentarians);
- Investment in free education and healthcare, with the strengthening of educational infrastructure, the granting of scholarships, and the strengthening of the national health system;
- The adoption of Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the National Adaptation Plan, with a focus on coastal and marine resilience, water resource management, and disaster risk reduction.

Timor-Leste nurtures hope because it has lived through darkness and chosen the light of Democracy.

May inter-parliamentary dialogue be the tool that transforms challenges into shared opportunities. Together, let us nurture hope, ensure peace, and guarantee justice — not only for our children, but for all generations yet to come.

Thank you very much.