

Your Excellency President
Of the IPU,
Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Baron

Your Excellency, Secretary General
Of the IPU,
Mr. Martin Chungong

Dear colleagues
Excellencies

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is a young state that has experienced many difficulties until its effective independence, so it embraces a Democratic Rule of Law System and, as such, committed to complying with the rules of the rule of law. Nationally and internationally, because it still strong in the mind of his people what it is to live in conflict, deprived of peace and freedom.

Conscious of these aspects, it has the notion that one of the important rules to be followed in order to maintain its internal order, peace and freedom is to preserve the international legal order of which it is part.

In addition to the important role played by the Timorese Government in maintaining this order, the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, a sovereign body representing the entire Timorese people, with legislative and supervisory powers and political decision-making, is one of the largest bodies responsible for compliance with such rules, both nationally and internationally, as, in addition to its vast internal competence, clearly reflected in the Constitution of the Timorese Republic, it is also responsible for approving and denouncing agreements, ratifying treaties and therefore, its specific action in this regard is one way of demonstrating its willingness to follow the internationally outlined parameters through the ratification of international treaties and conventions (all with a view to maintaining order, peace, international security), the "National Parliament being the central institution of democracy Timorese, which by definition represents the aspirations of the people.

Thus, it is its duty, as a privileged point of connection between the concerns of the people and those who govern them, to gather and articulate the interests of the nation as a whole, forging national policies and ensuring the resolution of conflicts in the region, and the society through democratic means, including dialogue and commitment. In order to exercise this unique responsibility to reconcile the often conflicting interests and expectations of different

groups and communities, The Parliament must ensure the accountability and participation of the Government and other public entities to the concerns and needs of citizens. For The Parliament to fulfill these tasks, it must be broadly rooted in society and designed in such a way as to enable it to play this role, constantly adapting its functioning to the country's growth rate and the challenges that are always emerging. ”

1. The National Parliament of Timor-Leste, by approving and denouncing agreements, ratifying international treaties and conventions, and preparing and proposing the adoption of domestic laws permitting the actual implementation of those treaties, is acting in such a way as to contribute greatly to the preservation of the international legal order.

2. One of the functions of the National Parliament is to supervise part of the Government's actions, so that in exercising this function, it analyzes in essence whether the rules established for a democratic rule of law are being respected both internally and in relation to the rules of maintaining international order.

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3. Since the Timor-Leste National Parliament is committed to acting in accordance with all the parameters of a democratic rule of law and respecting the international legal order, it has made a commitment to fulfill its obligation to rectify a wide range of international conventions and to enter into agreements as a means of strengthening their internal order, strengthening cooperation and securing peace. To date, there has been no decision by the international courts or resolution of the UN General Assembly or Security Council requiring intervention by the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, but as noted above, the intention of the East Timorese State is due to the legality of its action.

4. In a democratic rule of law country, the ideal is that there should be openness to interaction between the state and civil society as a means of demonstrating greater transparency in the governance process. Parliaments and their parliamentarians are also bound by this proximity, partnership, accountability and transparency. In fact, even more bounded to it, since they act on behalf of the people who elected them. Transparency generates transparency. Thus, if parliamentary associations and others similar organizations embraces a policy of transparency at the national level, based on legality and respect for legal norms and programs and rules, repudiating any illegal or obscure actions, based only on collective and not individual and personal interests. By using international funds and support properly, and reporting on their use, also at the level of international organizations, this same transparency and accountability will be mirrored in relation to the reality of the state and thus will not undermine its credibility.

5. Although, in most cases, and taking into account the maxim that 'sovereignty resides in the people, who exercise it under the Constitution rules', and that the 'State is subordinate to the

Constitution and the laws', since governance must be carried out on the basis of the will of the people and respect for the dignity of the human being, the truth is that in assuming power many governmental institutions, or similar, whether at national, regional or international level, forget to comply with the programs they were mandated, so it is essential that the institutions be redefined so that there is greater transparency in their actions, that they can be supervised and held accountable for their actions, as a way of not escaping the path previously devised and approved by the people who elected them, following interests other than that of the nation and the people.

6. Parliamentarians should be aware that, regardless of the party faction they represent and who elected them, from the moment they are part of the whole parliamentary house, they represent all citizens in general and not just the ones that voted on their political party. If everyone has this vision, even having different party ideologies and colors, there will be a predisposition for consensus, dialogue, analysis of what is best for the people they represent and, consequently, for the country, so that interest, individualism of one or groups will hardly prevail, making it more difficult to lead to conflict. That is, knowing that conflicts arise, essentially by the existence of opposing interests, if everyone decides that the only interest that should prevail is the interest of the country and its people, it is possible to eliminate part of the conflicts from the roots.

Timor-Leste's National Parliament, has taking into account a vision of peace and security for the country's future, drew up its 2017-2022 Strategic Plan in which "sharing the long-term vision for Timor-Leste contained in the Constitution of the Republic and National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, which aims to deepen democracy, improve the quality of life of all citizens and build a united and democratic Timor-Leste, aligned with the main objectives set out in the Strategic National Development Plan. In the wake of what the Constitution states, through the attributions given to the National Parliament, it is easy to conclude that the Parliament is the most representative institution of the social reality of the country, the face or expression of national sovereignty, which is embodied in its representatives, ie, in those who ensure the People's trust bond through their representation.

And it is precisely in trust that the essence of parliamentary representation lies, it is this gift that citizens offer to their representatives to defend their interests and those of the nation.

Confidence is a determining factor for the success of a democratic system, and because it is not gradual, that is, there is no more or less confidence - or there is or is not - it is necessary to exercise great caution in dealing with this connecting element between citizens and their representatives.

Trust is fundamental and is characterized by an intuitive and empirical perception on the part of citizens that must be protected by institutions and the state. The protection of citizens' trust is defended by procedures based on a regulatory framework aimed at protecting and guaranteeing diversity and plurality of opinions."

8. The Timor-Leste National Parliament argues that one of the best ways to achieve greater interparliamentary coherence at regional level is through dialogue, bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation, exchange of experience at all levels, essentially sharing of good practices. For this reason, it has invested heavily in international cooperation at regional level but also globally in different sectors.

9. In the light of the international community, a government is considered democratic and acting in accordance with international rules if its institutions and country processes are transparent and free of corruption and accountable to the population. A country's success in achieving this standard has become a measure of credibility and respect in the world. Good governance promotes effective, efficient and lasting equality, participation, pluralism, transparency, accountability and the rule of law. In putting these principles into practice, we see free, fair and frequent elections, representative legislatures that make and oversee the laws, and a judiciary to interpret them. The biggest threats to good governance come from corruption, violence and poverty that undermine transparency, security, population participation and their fundamental freedoms.

Thus, the experience of others, especially those that demonstrate a positive outcome, respecting all the above parameters, should be shared as a way of demonstrating the scope of certain desired outcomes and as a way of encouraging others to follow the same path. Of course, the results of less good practices that have landed in disastrous situations that generate crises, conflicts, poverty, etc., must also be demonstrated as a way of demonstrating and discouraging the practice of acts that can cause them.

10. Despite the many meetings organized over the years, with the aim of achieving positive results in respecting the international legal order, the fact is that it is increasingly leading to serious breaches of these rules from all corners of the world, leading to very serious national, regional and / or international crises, resulting in serious humanitarian crises, with serious violations of human and peoples' rights. This means that despite all these meetings and measures adopted by the IPU, they have not been sufficient to achieve the desired result. So something else must be done. There is a need for the IPU to work closely with governments, organized civil society and not just parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure the goals of peace, sustainable development for all, stopping migratory, humanitarian, armed conflict, change climate, etc.

However, the responsibility and commitment to achieve a better world, free of conflict, hunger, extreme poverty, at risk of viability, depends on us all. International organizations, states, organized civil society and the people. What the National Parliament of the Democratic Republic of East Timor can guarantee is that it will do its best to do its part.

Thank you