



PRIME  
MINISTER

**GENERAL STATEMENT ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER  
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

**IN THE OCCASION OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UNITED NATIONS  
(UN) SUMMIT**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

11 October 2024

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE,

Honourable ASEAN leaders,

Your Excellency Eng. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Secretary-General of ASEAN,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to participate as an observer in this year's ASEAN Summit with the United Nations and make these brief remarks on behalf of Timor-Leste.

I would like to congratulate Eng. António Guterres, a longstanding friend of Timor-Leste, on the recent adoption of the "Pact for the Future."

Timor-Leste recently recognised António Guterres vital role mobilising the international community to support our independence and national development by granting him Timorese citizenship.

Timor-Leste stands firmly behind the Secretary-General and the United Nations in implementing the Pact for the Future to secure peace, human dignity, and prosperity.

We believe that the Pact provides the framework, and institutional reform, required to address current and emerging problems in the world.

The Pact for the Future is necessary because the international order is coming apart.

The world is suffering from extreme inequality, as a handful of people amass obscene amounts of wealth, while over a billion people suffer from extreme hunger and poverty.

As the Secretary-General has said, the international financial architecture was established when many of today's developing countries were under colonial rule.

It does not provide the necessary financing to achieve the SDGs or the global safety net that developing countries need to combat extreme poverty, malnutrition and humanitarian crises.

We also face the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

Again, those who have contributed the least to global crises are the ones who suffer first, suffer most, and often suffer in isolation.

They are victims of self-interested international actors and policies that value profit and power over human dignity and environmental sustainability.

Further, our international system of collective security has been undermined by geopolitical divides and the selective application of international law.

We see the rise in hostilities, conflict and war in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in fragile countries around the world, including Sudan, Yemen, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Timor-Leste supports the role of the G7+ in speaking on behalf of fragile and conflict affected countries and as a model to build resilience and peace.

We are fortunate to have a Secretary-General of the United Nations with the resolve and fortitude to lead the international community in addressing the great challenges of our time.

In conclusion, I would like to once again congratulate the United Nations on the adoption of the "Pact for the Future," to secure sustainable development and peace for our world.

We look forward to collaborating and participating in this initiative within the ASEAN-UN cooperation framework to achieve our shared goals for peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Thank you, Chair

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão