



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by

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THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
(AGENDA ITEM 86)

The Sixth Committee

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Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

As this is our first intervention, my delegation joins other delegations to congratulate you on your election as chair of the Sixth Committee and the members of the bureau for their election. My delegation is certain that the work of this committee will be insightful and fruitful under your able leadership and in this view my delegation fully supports the constructive interventions and exchange of views between the delegations of member States including under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Timor-Leste aligns itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The world today faces many challenges, namely climate change, human displacement, human rights violation, migration, terrorism, development of arms and nuclear weapons, and increasingly arms conflicts and territorial disputes among States which corrodes and is a threat to international peace and security. My delegation therefore believes that these issues need to be addressed based on the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

The advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustainable development, the consolidation of peace and security and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. As such the promotion and respect for the rule of law at both national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance are a fundamental basis for the United Nations and the Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the report of Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in document A/73/253, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/119, which highlights the engagement of the United Nations in the collective efforts to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. This is rightly considered as an accelerator towards the realization of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

My delegation also welcomes efforts undertaken by the United Nations to continue supporting Member States in all continents to develop domestic capacities to strengthen the rule of law in the context of development, addressing fragility, dealing with conflict and peace building. As such, my delegation fully supports the United Nations efforts towards improved coordination and cohesion between the development, peace and security and humanitarian agendas and promoting human rights and gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

As a young nation, Timor-Leste is committed to the implementation of the rule of law at the national and international levels. This commitment is reflected through its constitutional mandate to build a democratic society which can foster and contribute to the rule of law, where respect for the constitution, for the laws and for democratically elected bodies, good governance and accountability constitute an unquestionable foundation.

Mr. Chairman,

Timor-Leste as a sovereign State has adopted a civil law system that works in tandem with traditional justice and customary law, that complies with the principle of human rights and the international legal order. Timor-Leste has seen positive progress in implementing this system by enacting regulations and laws in the basic development of the nation and its people.

Timor-Leste has adopted several legislations to regulate basic aspects of access to justice, justice for woman, children, social, education, economic and environmental protections and core values of human rights. Some of the laws promote gender equality and women's participation and prohibit discrimination.

As a result of this legislation, one third of the members of the Timor-Leste National Parliament are women. Furthermore, the domestic violence law also provides protection to women and redress in where women experience domestic violence.

Mr. Chairman,

In regard to the promotion of the rule of law at the international level, Timor-Leste has actively contributed to the development and implementation of the international legally binding instruments which have been adopted under the United Nations.

Timor-Leste has ratified most of the United Nations conventions on human rights and has also signed or ratified agreements on climate change, protection of the environment, migration, terrorism and international organized crimes, and those pertaining to the arms trade and against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Timor-Leste has also turned to the international legal based order for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this regard, Timor-Leste has made use of the Compulsory Conciliation mechanism for the first time, under the UNCLOS. This has resulted in an agreement signed with Australia, on the 6th of March 2018, on the delimitation of maritime boundaries between the two countries.

Timor-Leste also places great emphasis on international cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes at all levels. Addressing human trafficking and the sexual exploitation, in particular of women and children, and international financial crimes, and terrorism require cross border cooperation and efforts. Timor-Leste also attaches great importance on the role of international cooperation to fight against extremism, radicalism, terrorism and piracy which are serious threats to international peace and security, and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, my delegation reiterates its belief that the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, the prevention of conflict, sustaining peace and advancing the universal protection of human rights, justice for all, good governance, and accountability can only be achieved through the rule of law.

I thank you for your attention.