



**Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
to the United Nations in New York**

Statement by Mr. Jesuino Alves
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to the United Nations

**High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question
of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution**

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General Assembly Hall, UNHQ, New York

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Mr. President, Excellencies,

First, I thank France and Saudi Arabia for convening this conference.

The path to peace between Israelis and Palestinians does not lie in declarations made from afar. It lies with those who bear the weight of this conflict daily: the Israeli and Palestinian people. Only they can craft a future rooted in dignity, coexistence, and mutual recognition. However, they cannot do it alone. Our collective responsibility is to accompany them with courage, clarity, and consistency.

Mr. President,

This conflict is not a question of ideology alone but a human tragedy. Generations of both peoples have endured trauma, loss, and fear. The Jewish people, scarred by centuries of persecution and the unfathomable horrors of the Holocaust, built a homeland in Israel. Palestinians, displaced and stateless for decades, continue to struggle for a nation where they can live with freedom, safety, and self-determination.

These narratives are not irreconcilable. They are parallel truths that can, and must, form the foundation for a just and lasting peace. The two-state solution remains the only viable path forward, enshrined in international law, grounded in UN resolutions, including Resolution 181, and reaffirmed by global consensus.

However, aspiration must now become action.

Timor-Leste firmly condemns the October 7th attacks by Hamas—a brutal and inexcusable act of terror against civilians. No cause can justify the deliberate

targeting of innocents. Equally, we must denounce the disproportionate military responses that have devastated entire communities in Gaza. The laws of war are not optional. Civilians must never be collateral. Hospitals, homes, and schools are not legitimate targets. Collective punishment is not security; it is a moral failure.

Mr. President,

We echo the voices of conscience around the world, the moderate voices both in Palestine and in Israel: the suffering in Gaza must end. Humanitarian access must be guaranteed. Hostages taken must be returned safely. Lives must be protected, and hope must be restored.

In this spirit, as a peace-loving nation, Timor-Leste proposes the following steps:

1. **An immediate and unconditional ceasefire** to stop further bloodshed and allow urgent humanitarian relief.
2. **The safe release and return of all hostages.** This is a vital measure to rebuild trust.
3. **Deployment of an international civilian protection presence**, grounded in the Geneva Conventions, to safeguard vulnerable communities.
4. **A UN-led peace conference**, with participation from Israel, a unified Palestinian leadership, the Arab League, the EU, BRICS, and other peace-loving nations, to address final status issues.
5. **Long-term, coordinated international support** to rebuild Palestinian institutions and ensure a credible, unified leadership committed to peace.

We believe that a unified, democratic, and legitimate Palestinian leadership can and will deliver peace. At the same time, we as members of the United Nations must recognize that military dominance will never guarantee true

security. Real peace comes from recognition, not repression, compromise, or coercion.

Timor-Leste aligns with the position of the Arab League, BRICS, and other peace-loving nations in supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state and a just solution for refugees as per international law. We also welcome the Arab Peace Initiative and believe that recent diplomatic efforts, such as the Abraham Accords, show that dialogue between former adversaries is possible.

As President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste reminds us: *"The Jewish people, rising from the ashes of genocide, sought sanctuary in their state. Palestinians, long displaced, deserve the same. Let us amplify the voices of moderation and reason on both sides: they exist and must not stand alone."*

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The time for half-measures has passed. The alternatives, such as endless war, growing extremism, and deepening despair, are unacceptable. Let us choose the hard road to peace. Let us uphold THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION based on international law, human dignity, and the right of both peoples to live in sovereign states, side by side, in peace and security.

The world must not fail them again.

Thank you.