



República Democrática de Timor-Leste
**PARLAMENTO
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46th General Assembly of the Asian Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) on First Plenary Session

18th September 2025

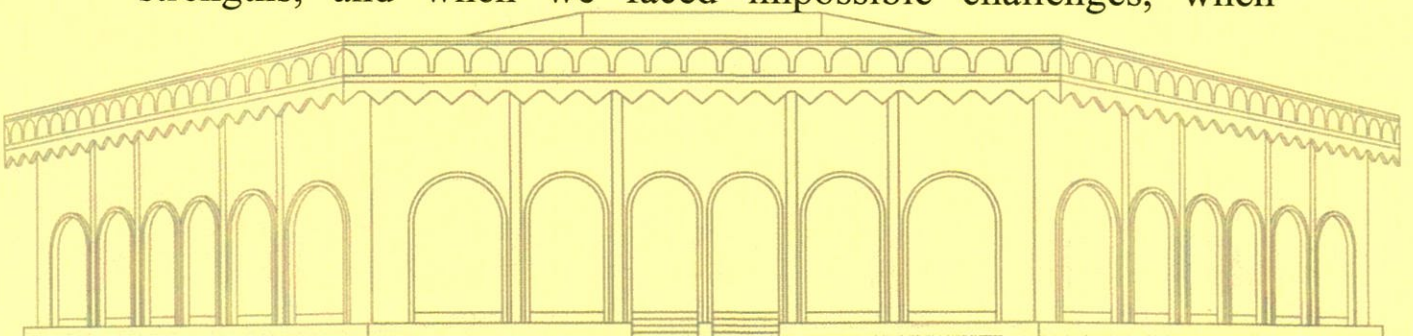
Dear Colleagues,

I stand before you today with emotion and hope. Welcomed by the ASEAN family that opens its arms to us.

Twenty-three years ago, when Timor-Leste emerged as an independent nation, many questioned whether a small country born from conflict could find its place among nations.

Today, I can say proudly: we have not only found our place—we are ready to embrace all the responsibilities that history presents to us.

Our journey has taught us that resilience transforms obstacles into strengths, and when we faced impossible challenges, when





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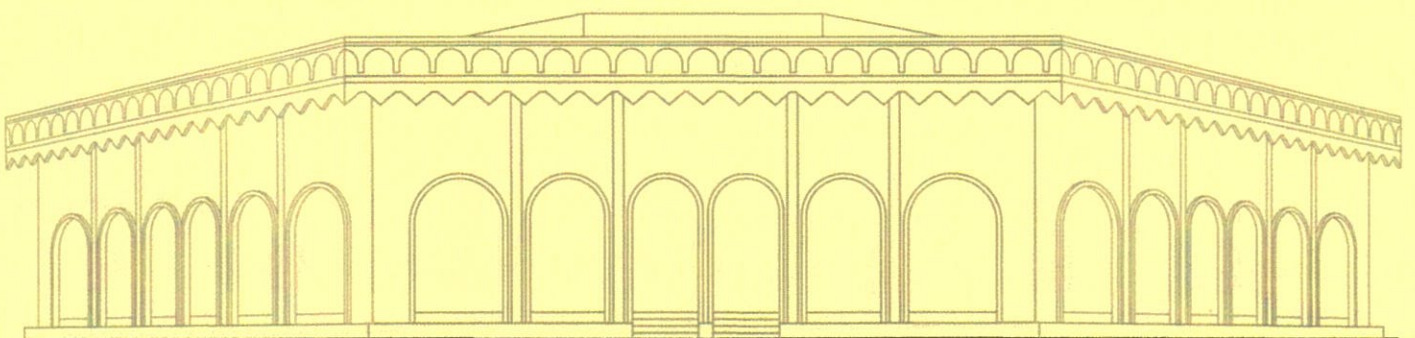
resources were scarce and our institutions remained fragile, we never abandoned one dream: to contribute to this shared vision that is ASEAN.

Soon, in October 2025, Timor-Leste will achieve full ASEAN membership, and we are grateful for your belief in us when we were still learning to believe in ourselves.

Excellencies,

Our National Parliament has created a special committee to monitor our accession, ensuring that every step and requirement is met with complete dedication, and today, I can say with confidence: we are ready.

And let me emphasize this: our accession is not the desire of a few politicians; it is a national goal with overwhelming majority support across our Parliament.





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While we cannot claim universal consensus, we can say that the vast majority of our political forces have united behind this vision because we recognize that some objectives transcend political differences.

ASEAN is one of those objectives.

Excellencies,

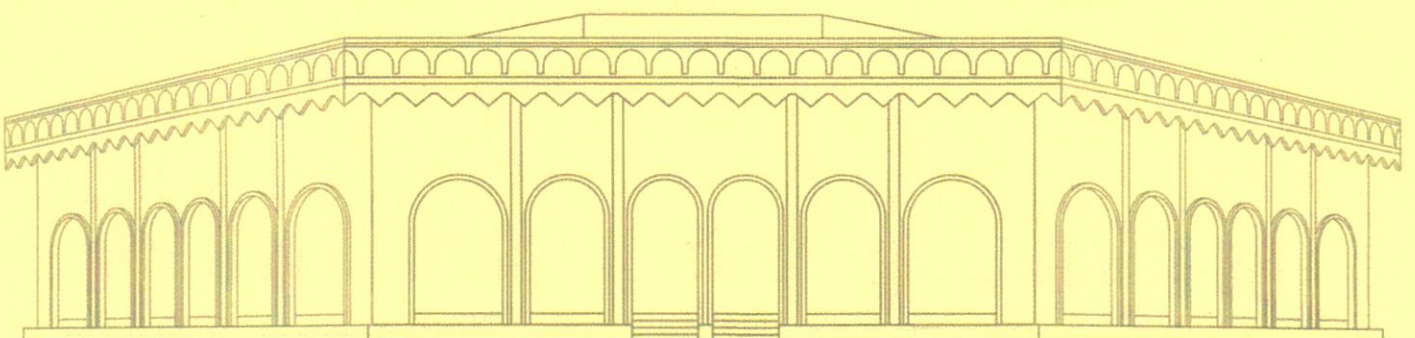
Today I speak not only of gratitude, but of commitment and determination to contribute to ASEAN's progress and strength.

What can Timor-Leste offer ASEAN?

We offer our experience in building peace.

We offer our understanding of the challenges facing societies in transition.

We offer our youth, our natural resources, and our strategic position between Asia and the Pacific.





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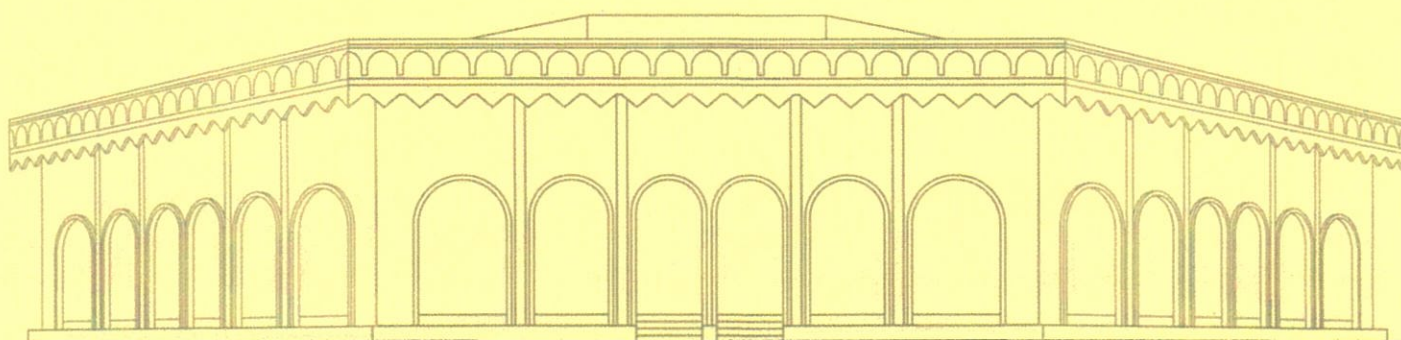
Above all, we offer our commitment to the values that unite us: peace, stability, and regional cooperation.

The theme of this 46th Assembly—"Parliament at the Forefront of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in ASEAN"—speaks directly to Timor-Leste's experience.

We know that growth without inclusion is hollow, that development without sustainability is temporary, and that progress without social justice cannot last.

We, parliaments, have both the power and responsibility to lead this transformation, and the ASEAN Community 2045 that we envision is not an abstract concept—it is a promise.

A commitment that our children will inherit a region more just, prosperous, and sustainable than the one we inherited.





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To realize this vision, we need courage:

courage to innovate,

courage to question existing approaches,

and courage to embrace difficult but necessary changes.

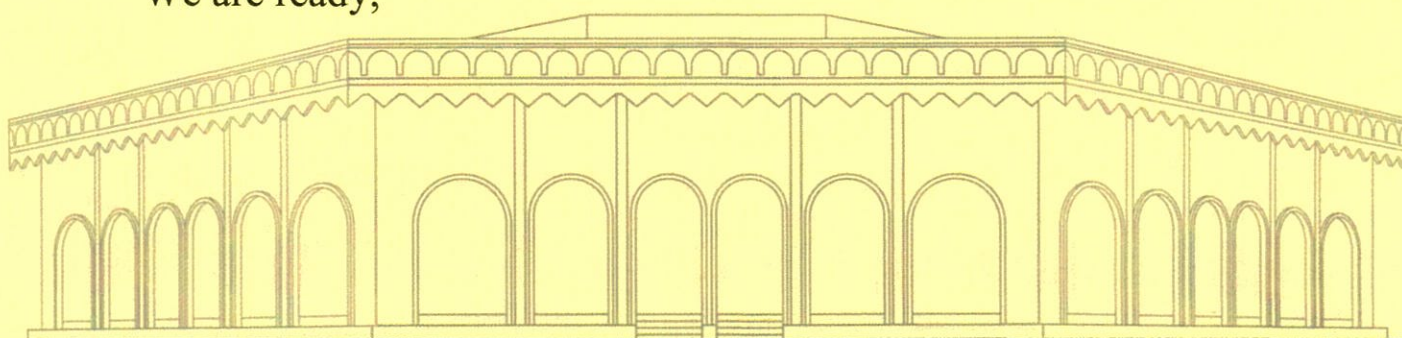
We need the courage to prove, more than ever, that cooperation is not just idealism, but a necessity in our world.

Timor-Leste is ready for this journey.

We are ready to strengthen regional cooperation.

We are ready to participate in the integration that will benefit all our peoples.

We are ready,





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And

Together, we will help build an ASEAN that is truly inclusive,
sustainable, and prosperous.

Thank you.

