



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TIMOR – LESTE TO UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

STATEMENT BY MR. ISILIO COELHO, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL
RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TIMOR – LESTE

AT
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 65th SESSION OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 11th, 2010

(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset of my remarks, please allow me to join in congratulating you and the other members of the bureau on your election. I am confident that, with your rich experience and wisdom, the current session will be steered to success. I assure you full cooperation from my delegation to make this year session successful.

Mr. Chairman,

Timor-Leste is pleased to see the several substantial and positive achievements on disarmament and international security measures, policies and realization in the past year. Particularly, the signing of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in order to achieve further cuts in their strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, an important milestone for nuclear security and non proliferation; and, the adoption of a comprehensive and forward looking final document with its action plan for the Non – Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) during the Review Conference held in NY, last May. In this regard my delegation wishes to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Cabactulan of the Philippines for his tireless efforts in conducting the work of the Review Conference to a successful conclusion.

Timor - Leste likewise welcomes all initiative from world leaders such as the initiative from the President of the United States of America, H.E. Mr Barack Obama, who made a landmark speech in Prague, whereby he expressed the commitment of the United States to “seek peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”;

The United Kingdom’s major report entitled “the road to 2010” which proposed a three-stage process to achieve greater progress: Transparency and control, arms reduction and step to a world free of nuclear weapons; and last but not least,

The adoption of the Bangkok Treaty on the South East-East Asia Nuclear –Weapon Free Zone on the 5th of December 2007.

Timor - Leste also associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Alignment Movement (NAM), and concur with the statement delivered by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), that the issue of disarmament and security can best be addressed through multilateral diplomacy as the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament, non-proliferation and international security issues. A multilateral diplomacy which has found its operational stage at the United Nations, specifically through this committee.

Timor – Leste recognizes the importance of the work of this committee of the United Nations General Assembly as a fundamental body to discuss current issues related to disarmament and international security. Likewise, it is an important forum to create synergy for finding solutions for these issues, envisaging global peace and security as sine quo non condition for development and prosperity. We all believe that in our globalized world, a local threat to local peace and stability automatically becomes an immediate threat to global peace and security, and as such, the local threat should be handled through multilateral mechanisms which involve other members of the international community. There is also a need to develop a more coherent and effective multilateral response to these challenges instead of managing them on an ad hoc basis.

Committed to this principle, Timor-Leste, despite having regained its independence in the past eight years, where all elements and aspects of the process of state building are priorities, has been working seriously and channeling its efforts by signing, ratifying and implementing the international instruments that regulate disarmament and international security. Specifically, the convention on the prohibition of the use of anti personal land mines; the convention on the prohibition of biological arms; the treaty on non proliferation of nuclear arms and concluded our comprehensive safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Timor – Leste is also a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and intends to ratify it in due course.

This is a clear testament of the sincere and serious commitment of my country to contribute to what is enshrined in the United Nations charter and in my country's constitution in regard to global peace, stability and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, Timor - Leste recognizes that the achievements on disarmament and international security's regulations up to date is a plausible benchmark which should be taken as reason to enhance the existing commitment of the international community to multiply their efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of global peace and security, inevitable driving machine of prosperity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.