



Keynote Speech
Eminent Person of g7+
High Level Summit during the 77th session of the UNGA

“Conflict prevention in multipolar world: Perspective from g7+ countries”

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Peace and conflict prevention have been our hardest struggle. While the very foundation of the UN was rooted in ambition to sustain peace and prevent conflicts, they have been taken for granted by the international community. We organize summits after summits on the consequences of lack of Peace, but we are too complacent to admit what are the root cause of our sufferings.

Few days ago, we all attended the summit on Transforming Education, where we all witnessed a lot of energy, without considering the irrelevance of some scientific approaches that are only applicable to developed countries, making use of the policy of ‘one size fits all’. Of course, no one denies the importance of Education, but without PEACE in countries, how can our kids and youth access school, without a stable and efficient State, how can a country build schools, form teachers, and get the basic infrastructures to provide education to its people?

Since the brutal War in Ukraine, the Black Sea grain initiative has been the milestone that could be achieved through multilateral efforts. This was, actually, a crucial step to respond to increasing food prices and shortage of food caused by the War in Ukraine. However, this reactionary effort has made us complacent by forgetting the need to address the root cause. And the root cause of these sufferings is the War which needs to be addressed through negotiation, dialogue, and reconciliation.

Few years ago, I attended an International Food Forum, in Milan. Being asked to talk, I reminded the international community about the problem of migrants trying to achieve Europe with many of them dying in the sea. I said that those people had enough soil to raise food, and they were leaving their properties because of the war and conflicts.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen!

Since the UN was established, there has not been direct military confrontation between the big powers that were the main actors of the 2 World Wars. When Gorbachev took the initiative to terminate with the Soviet Union, allowing countries in the Eastern Europe to be independent, the Humanity started to live in the dream of 'The New World Order'. At the time, I was in the jungle fighting for our independence and we could minimize all the adversities motivated by the slogan of the 'New World Order'. Almost 23 years after the liberation of our Land, what I can say is that we are really

leaving in a GREAT WORLD DISORDER, tending to be worst if the World Leaders continue to be obsessed by hegemonic policies and proud of being an example of everything, even of criminalities, violation of human rights and injustice.

There are countries in the so-called global South, that are home to billions of people who live in crisis, extreme poverty all this time. Millions of lives lost in aggression and civil strife that also had their roots in colonization, hegemonic politics, extreme poverty, fragility, and voracity of power, that facilitate the voracity of resources from the rich countries.

Since then, these countries have become hosts of peacekeepers, humanitarian, and donors' actions, but without much success in pursuing lasting peace and stability, taking instead the opportunity to smuggle diamond and gold from these conflicted countries. The taxpayers in countries of the so-called international community generously and out of goodwill, provided funding with the aim of helping people in our countries.

However, the organizations that manage the peacekeeping and humanitarian actions remained complacent with our status quo, without considering to address properly the root causes of instability. Instead of helping to achieve peace through reconciliation and dialogue, they continued focusing on *modals/models* that would perpetuate our dependency.

National dialogue, truth and reconciliation is THE ONLY WAY TO STOP WARS from reoccurring; the only cure to heal the wounds of conflict. That is what the United Nations and its Security council have to pursue to ensure peace.

My own country, Timor-Leste, a young democracy, is among the nations that transitioned from a country in ashes to a democratic and stable country. Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Cambodia and other countries transformed from being failed states to vibrant and peaceful nations using by determining to leave behind the dark past.

Many people ask me how Timor-Leste survived the legacies of devastating war for freedom we fought for 25 years. **I tell them, we DID IT OUR WAY!**

Our way was grounded in national determination to forget the bitter past and aim for brighter future. We reconciled not only with Indonesia but, essentially, among ourselves to heal the wounds of the brutal war. **This process of reconciliation was at odd with the existing standards that the international community continued teaching us; The standards that have failed time and again to appreciate each country's specific context; The standards that are too expensive for us to afford!**

Together with other brother countries, we established the g7+ group to share our experiences to inspire peace and stability in countries that are in war; to advocate for PEACE through National means and to remind the world that the

business as usual has failed to respond to the suffering of millions of people in the world.

AND today, we have come together in a very right time to make our voice heard louder!

Excellencies ladies and gentlemen

The War in Ukraine has become the headline on media. We, the citizens of countries that are born and lived in wars, experienced displacement, hunger, and poverty, can FEEL the pain of the people of Ukraine. We call for immediate end of this brutal war!

But what concerns us and should concern everyone with an open mind is that the big powers are only fueling this war rather than ending through diplomacy and negotiations. They keep spending billions of dollars on military means and at the same insulate billions of people to in Africa, Middle east, Asia, Pacific, Caribbean and Latin America who are grappling with hunger and extreme poverty.

It is in this context that I would like to offer three points that I hope, will help in empowering us to raise to occasion and open and maintain a pathway to the prosperity of our people and countries.

First:

Pursuit of dialogue and reconciliation should be at the center of our collective agenda and our own acts as members of g7+.

We, the members of g7+, should approach each other as brothers and sisters and have a self-reflection on our transition. As members of a family, we need to hold each other accountable of our aim to achieve peace. Our strength is in our diversity since we do not have vested interest in each other's affairs. Instead, we are united with a common goal of peace.

Allow me to say that it was a great honor to me to be present in the 'Group of Seven Plus' seat, in the opening of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I commend all the interventions, that initiated by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, but with humility I recommend to all the g7+ member-States to read carefully and to interiorize the important lessons, made by the President do Chile.

He taught all of us about principles in the leadership, he tried in a very honest and simple way to address the commitment we need to guarantee the values of democracy, he revealed such a humble behavior in facing the popular decision even though against the Government's position, he made clear the perception about society and about cohesiveness and inclusion.

It is what we, in the g7+ countries, need to absorb and to put in practice.

Second:

The g7+ is a unique group which is founded by solidarity. It has a potential to be an agent of peace. It has evolved into an influential block that can induce reforms in the international policies. Our observer status at the United Nations gives us an avenue to channel our collective voice that can further results into better policies of engagement.

However, we can realize this potential only and only if we act cohesively and strengthen coordination among ourselves. Therefore, I would like to call upon the members of g7+ to commit to convene at the Head of States and Governmental level at least once a year. I further recommend our Permanent Mission here, in New York, to identify common positions during the discussion at the UN and speak as a group.

I further entrust the g7+ secretariat to facilitate coordination and increase the visibility of the group at the United Nations.

The Third and Final:

I call upon the international partners and the international community that peace in the world rests in peace and stability in conflict affected countries. I remind them of our experiences which they have witnessed that international engagement of any kind should be rooted in the aim of achieving stability and

lasting peace. We don't want to live on the mercy of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, but we want to be contributor to the world prosperity. Therefore, the international community should respect and understand each country's unique context and culture. Get rid of the one size that is tried on each of us!

I thank you for your attention!