



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

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dionisio Babo Soares  
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to the United Nations

**2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons – General Debate**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, Timor-Leste extends its warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, Ambassador Do Hung Viet, on your election as President of this 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We are confident that your leadership and steadfast commitment to multilateralism will guide our deliberations toward a meaningful and constructive outcome. We also commend the members of the Bureau.

Timor-Leste aligns itself with the statements delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by the Philippines on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to multilateralism, the rule of international law, and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the prohibition of the threat or use of force.

For Timor-Leste, a nation born from struggle and sustained by the values of peace, sovereignty, and justice, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is not only an aspiration, but it is a moral, humanitarian, and legal imperative. We reaffirm that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and a vital foundation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This is consistent with the binding obligation under Article VI of the Treaty, as affirmed by the International Court of Justice, to pursue negotiations in good faith leading to nuclear disarmament.

However, we remain deeply alarmed by the deteriorating global security environment. Heightened geopolitical tensions, the continued modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals, the erosion of arms control agreements, and the growing role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines are reversing

decades of progress. These trends undermine strategic stability and place humanity at unacceptable risk, including the risk of miscalculation, accidental use, or escalation.

Timor-Leste therefore calls upon all States Parties—particularly Nuclear-Weapon States—to fully implement their obligations under Article VI and to honour commitments undertaken at previous Review Conferences. We stress the urgent need to revitalize disarmament diplomacy, restore confidence in multilateral institutions, and deliver a balanced, credible, and action-oriented outcome at this Conference.

Mr. President,

Timor-Leste firmly believes that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any nuclear detonation—whether intentional or accidental—would transcend borders, generations, and ecosystems. These consequences must remain at the center of all disarmament deliberations, consistent with international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians.

We strongly support the universalization and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We call upon all remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay. Pending its entry into force, all nuclear-capable States must uphold moratoria on nuclear testing, thereby reinforcing the global norm against such tests.

Timor-Leste further calls for legally binding negative security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States, the adoption of no-first-use policies, and concrete nuclear risk-reduction measures. These should include safeguards against emerging threats, such as cyber vulnerabilities affecting nuclear

command, control, and communication systems, which could increase the risk of unintended escalation.

We express concern at the weakening of bilateral and multilateral arms control frameworks, including uncertainties surrounding the future of strategic arms limitation arrangements. We urge all relevant parties to resume dialogue and negotiations in good faith to preserve strategic stability and uphold international peace and security.

Timor-Leste is proud to contribute to Southeast Asia's enduring commitment to peace by acceding to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. This reflects our sovereign commitment to a region free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We reaffirm our strong support for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones as practical, legally binding contributions to global disarmament and non-proliferation, and we support the establishment of additional zones, including in the Middle East.

We also recognize the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a historic and complementary instrument. By reinforcing the normative and humanitarian rejection of nuclear weapons, it strengthens the broader disarmament architecture and advances the goal of their total elimination.

At the same time, Timor-Leste reaffirms the inalienable right of all States, as enshrined in Article IV of the NPT, to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, consistent with safeguards and international obligations. We acknowledge the indispensable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in ensuring that nuclear technology contributes to sustainable development, including in health, agriculture, food security, and climate resilience. As a developing country, we emphasize that equitable access to these benefits must not be hindered by discrimination.

Mr. President,

Timor-Leste's history reminds us that genuine security cannot be built on fear, deterrence, or the threat of mass destruction. It must be grounded in dialogue, justice, cooperation, and respect for human dignity—principles at the heart of the UN Charter. Nuclear weapons are fundamentally incompatible with these values.

As this Review Conference convenes at a time of profound uncertainty, we urge all States Parties to rise above division and reaffirm our shared responsibility to future generations. We must not allow political differences to erode our collective duty to prevent nuclear catastrophe.

Timor-Leste remains steadfast in working with all partners toward a world free of nuclear weapons—a world where peace is preserved not through terror, but through trust; not through arms races, but through law; and not through fear, but through our common humanity.

I thank you.