



**EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
BANGKOK**

**Country statement from Timor-Leste during Seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
Bangkok and Online, 15-19 May 2023**

**Agenda Item 2,
Accelerating Climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development.**

Madam Chair

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

As one of the Least Developed countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Timor-Leste has been experiencing massive floods, droughts, landslides, fire hazards and extreme weather events. These climate change impacts lead to decrease in agriculture production, food insecurity, water shortage, destruction of infrastructure, loss of human life as well as human displacement. Both slow onset event and extreme events have caused many losses and damages in the country. For the extreme weather event, Timor-Leste was hit by the tropical cyclone Seroja on 4th April 2021 with massive floods and landslides across the country causing loss of human lives and losses of properties that are yet to be recovered. It was reported that 47 people lost their lives, 31,926 households were severely affected, 5,352 houses were damaged and the country lost its public infrastructure at the amount of USD 225,000,000. On the other hand, we have limited financial and technological capacity to quickly recover and rebuild in a sufficient manner. On slow onset event, Timor-Leste has experiencing in drought and sea level rise. In fact, sea level in the country has been raised about 5.5 millimeters per year. This catastrophe has damaged coastal infrastructure, coastal water quality and ecosystems. Since the country has limited financial capacity to address real losses and damages caused by the impacts of climate change, it is indicated that Timor-Leste is very vulnerable to the impact of climate change. This vulnerability can be seen from economic, social and environmental point of views.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, although having limited capacity, Timor-Leste has been taking some climate actions for increasing our resilience. The country has formulated its National Climate change Policy in 2022 which has been seen as a policy guidance for taking further actions on adaptation and mitigation. For adaptation, we have formulated our National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the document has been submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations framework convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) in 2020 in order to get financial and technological support from international and bilateral cooperation, including from green climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the UNFCCC. Some of adaptation priorities under the NAP have been implemented by different agencies and entities



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in the country. However, it is still not enough. Therefore, under the leadership of UNESCAP, we would like to call some Asian partner countries and other to provide financial support to fully implement our adaptation priorities under the NAP. In addition, the country has updated and submitted its Nationally Determined contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in November 2022 which covers adaptation and mitigation. On mitigation aspect, the priorities have been given to renewable energy technology and forest conservation. The government has allocated state budget for purchasing solar panel for the communities who are away from the national electricity line. However, these actions are still far from our expectation. In this regard, we would like to seek bilateral and regional cooperation in the ASIA Pacific region to assist us in providing renewable energy technology for addressing mitigation of greenhouse gas emission but at the same time increase energy supply for our community.

Last but not least, we need to have urgent and long-term capacity building in the area of climate change, including enabling young people to continue their study on climate change related sectors. As such, we call regional Asia Pacific cooperation to provide financial support for this critical area of capacity building.

Thank You