



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

Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Dionísio Babo Soares,
Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the
United Nations

Special session on the review of the amendments on the crime of aggression

**Agenda Item 8: Lessons learnt from the Kampala amendments, ratification
procedures and their implementation**

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Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ, New York

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Thank you, Madam President,

At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's sincere appreciation for your leadership and the thoughtful manner in which you have guided our work. You have our full support as you steer these important deliberations.

I was prepared to begin my statement by sharing that Timor-Leste had the honor of being the most recent State Party to ratify the Kampala Amendments. But as of yesterday, that distinction now belongs to the Republic of Seychelles. We extend our warmest congratulations to Seychelles, and we take this opportunity to encourage other States to join us in reinforcing the integrity and universality of the Rome Statute.

Madam President,

For Timor-Leste, the decision to ratify the amendments was not taken lightly. In our constitutional system, the process of ratifying any international legal instrument is both thorough and inclusive. It begins with discussion and approval by the Council of Ministers. It then proceeds to the National Parliament, where treaties are carefully reviewed for their alignment with our Constitution, domestic legal framework, and national priorities.

The ratification of the Kampala Amendments required intensive legal review and close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. We are proud to say the decision received broad political and public support, reflecting the values and aspirations of our people.

Our support for the Kampala Amendments, stems directly from our own historical experience. As a small state that emerged from occupation and conflict, Timor-Leste knows firsthand the profound importance of

international law and the rules-based international order. These are not abstract ideals for us, they are lifelines. They are the guarantees that small states like ours will not be subjected to the unchecked use of force, and that sovereignty and territorial integrity can be protected.

Madam President,

While we appreciate the compromise reached in Kampala, where States Parties agreed on a definition of the crime of aggression, we must be frank in acknowledging a critical shortcoming in the current framework: the limited jurisdictional regime.

As it stands, the regime fails to fully protect States that have ratified the amendments from potential acts of aggression: while, paradoxically, exposing their leaders to prosecution under the Court's jurisdiction. This asymmetry presents a significant disincentive for broader ratification.

Therefore, Timor-Leste believes that establishing a harmonized jurisdictional regime, one that removes the accountability gap, is essential. This would not only strengthen the deterrent power of the Court, but also enhance the legitimacy and fairness of the system as a whole.

In this regard, we welcome and strongly support the amendment proposed by Costa Rica, Germany, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Vanuatu, as well as the accompanying draft resolution submitted by Liechtenstein on July 3rd. We see this proposal as a constructive and principled step forward that offers a solid foundation for negotiations.

Thank you.