



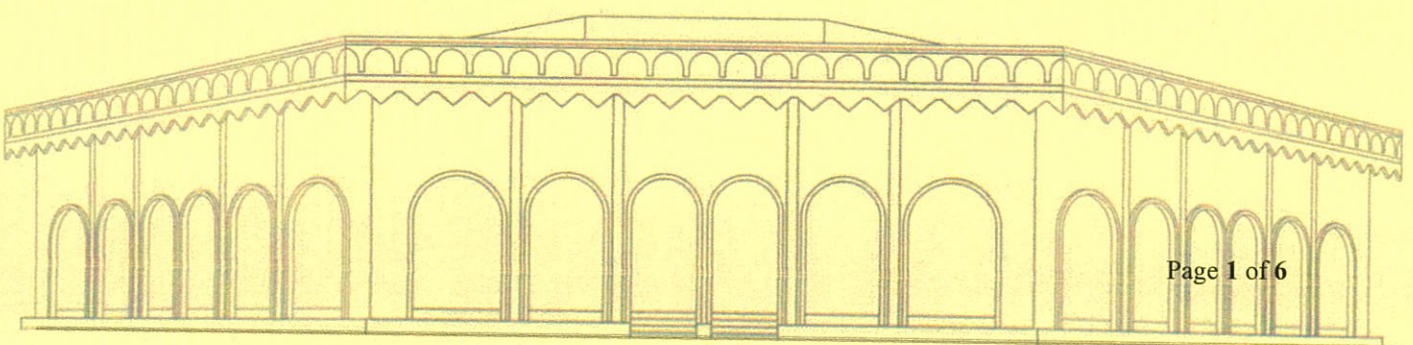
República Democrática de Timor-Leste
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**Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity:
Strengthening International Law and Resolving
Conflicts Peacefully**

International Conference, Cambodia

27 de Agosto de 2026

Allow me to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to the organizers of the 2nd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference for the outstanding organization of this event, and to the people of Cambodia for their warmth and generous hospitality, which we have felt since our arrival.





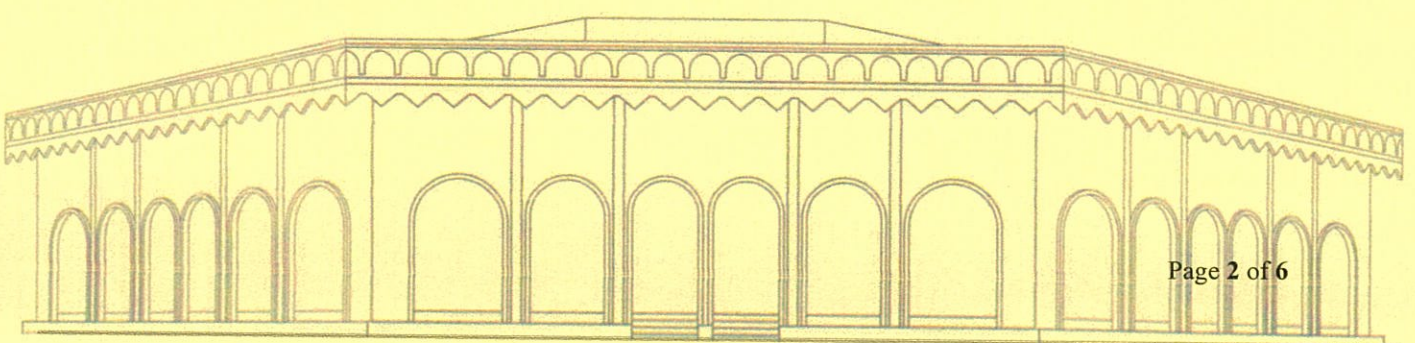
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Let me start with a simple story — the story of my own country.

Timor-Leste is a small nation, very small indeed, and for twenty-four years, we lived under the rule of a much bigger neighbour, Indonesia. Many people did not believe we would survive; we had no army to match theirs, no wealth, no power.

We were David facing Goliath.

But we survived.





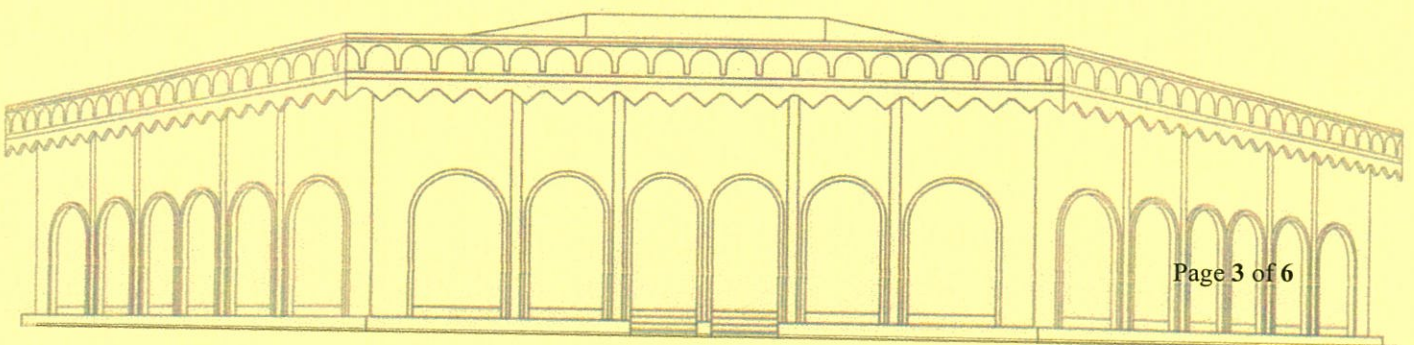
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Not because we were stronger, or better, or smarter.
Because the world chose to stand by a simple idea: a small
people has the right to choose its own future.

In 1999, that idea — written in the Charter of the United
Nations — gave us back our freedom.

Today, more than 25 years past, Timor-Leste and Indonesia
are close friends.

Our children study in each other's schools. Our farmers cross
the same border to sell coffee and rice at the same markets.





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Soldiers who once stood on opposite sides now sit at the same table, and share the same meal.

If Timor-Leste and Indonesia could sit at that same table after so much pain, then every conflict in our region can — and should — be addressed through dialogue.

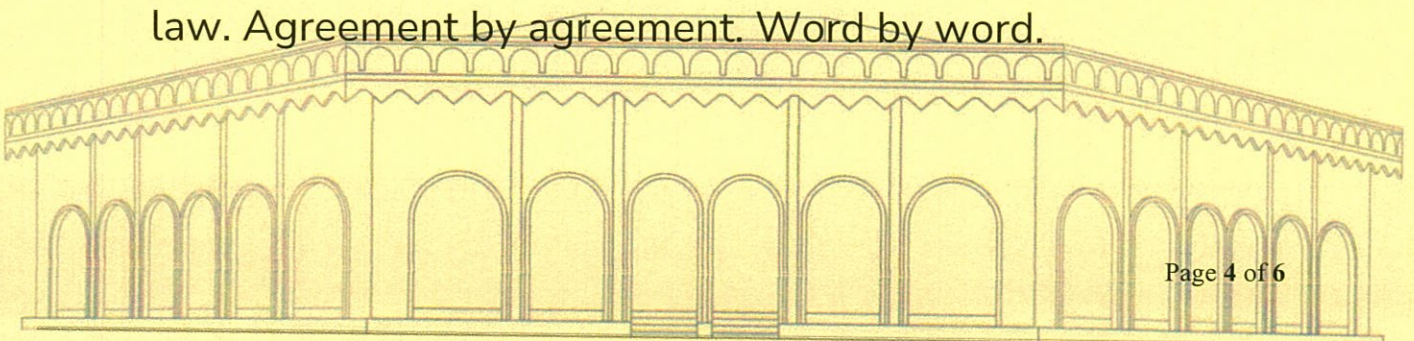
David did not win because he was strong.

He won because the same rules applied to him as to Goliath.

That is solidarity for peace: one law, for the big and for the small.

That is a truth Cambodia knows well, from its own long road back from ruin to peace.

Peace does not fall from the sky, it is built, slowly. Law by law. Agreement by agreement. Word by word.

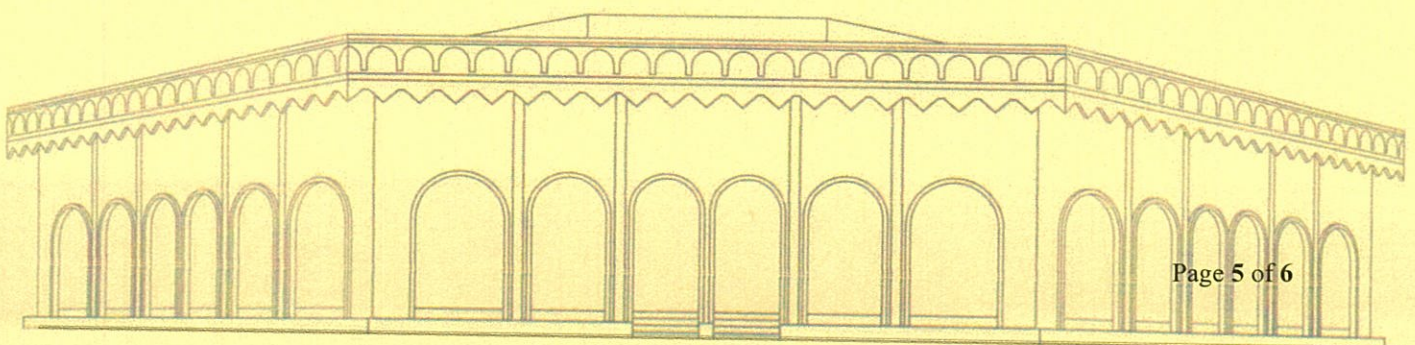




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Prosperity follows the same path. No country grows alone. Timor-Leste is still young, still learning, still building. Our future depends on calm seas, fair trade, and neighbours who choose dialogue over conflict.

This is why meetings like this one matter. We, as parliamentarians, hold real power. We can refuse to approve agreements that treat nations unequally. We can demand open and honest negotiations. And we can say, with one voice: no dispute — on land, or at sea — should ever be solved by force.





PARLAMENTO NACIONAL

República Democrática de Timor-Leste
Gabinete do Presidente
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I say this with humility, as a guest in this beautiful country. We are grateful for your welcome, and honoured to stand here today, close to the ancient stones of Angkor. Stones that remind us: what is built with patience can last for centuries. What is taken by force, rarely does.

In my own language, Tetum, we say *hadomi malu* — love one another. It is not just a feeling. It is a political choice we make, every single day.

If Timor-Leste and Indonesia could do it, any two neighbours can. So let us choose it together.

The same law for everyone. Our conflicts settled at the table, never by weapons. And a shared prosperity that leaves no country — and no person — behind.

Thank you very much.

