



MINISTRO COORDENADOR DOS ASSUNTOS ECONOMICOS  
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DO AMBIENTE



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DO AMBIENTE

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## **Country Statement**

**By**

**The Government of Timor-Leste**

**Delivered by His Excellency the Secretary of State for the Environment  
At the Resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly  
28 February – 2 March 2022**

Your Excellency Espen Barth Eide, UNEA President

Your Excellency Madam Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director

Your Excellencies Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to United Nations Environment Programme with the strong leadership from UNEA President and Madam Executive Director and the team to organize this international assembly here in the beautiful city of Nairobi, in the midst of the challenges arising from Covid19 Pandemic.

Excellencies,

Human development has caused environmental degradation, in many ways, including climate change, biodiversity losses, land degradation and pollutions on our water, oceans, soil and air. As a Such, our socio-economic development has been facing challenges. Our efforts to achieve sustainable development have been hindered by these environmental degradations. The most vulnerable ones are those who have limited financial, technological, and human capacity to adapt such impacts. In this

regard, we urge all parties to take actions based on common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances in protecting and conserving our environment for supporting the achievement of SDGs and building-back-better.

Excellencies,

Coming from small island developing state, and today we see ourselves as a Great Blue Ocean State with rich marine biodiversity ecosystem, it is a great concern to my country to see such as alarming rate the increase of the severity of plastic pollution and marine debris in our oceans. In this event, Timor-Leste welcomes the resolution to end plastic pollution and marine debris underlining the need of international action by developing international legally binding instrument, taking a comprehensive approach to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the environment by promoting circular economy and addressing the full lifecycle of plastic, with great consideration of different national circumstances and capabilities, and differentiated responsibilities between parties.

The concern of plastic pollution and marine debris was raised during the 4th Session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, last October which launch a formal negotiating process toward a global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution for the regional. As a follow-up action, parties have already undertaken various meetings and discussions leading up to the formulation of the resolution; in which we could approve and adopt here in Nairobi.

Excellencies,

Timor-Leste is not a plastic producer country, however, with the transboundary nature of the issue, the health of our marine ecosystem is severely at risk. As a member of the LDCs and SIDS country, Timor-Leste has very limited financial and technological capacity to address such a serious issue. We, therefore, urge that plastic producer countries to provide means of implementation including finance, technology and capacity building to enable R4 of the plastics products to promote sustainable consumption and production.

Lastly, we must set our clear goal on zero plastic pollution for both land based and ocean, with the consideration for establishing a mechanism for assessing of our efforts in regularly basis. Additionally, it is necessary develop NAPs with clear timelines, methodologies and formats, to formulate and implement and regularly update national actions achieve common goals with taking into consideration national circumstances and capacities support provided in the elaboration of NAPs.

Thank you for your attention!