Statement by

Alfaro Júlio Araújo

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

General Debate

The First Committee

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, October 2019

Check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Timor-Leste would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau for your election to lead the committee and we believe that your leadership will contribute to the successful conclusion of the committee’s work.

Mr. chairman,

1. Timor-Leste aligns its statement with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM.
2. As has been expressed by delegations before, Timor-Leste is concerned with International security and security within our region. To this end my delegation has been heartened by the dialogue that has taken place in the Korean Peninsula and urges all parties to continue dialogue to reduce tensions and reach agreement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Timor-Leste believes in a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. We do not possess nuclear weapons, nor do we aspire to producing or owning weapons of mass destruction.

4. Since 2002 we have been a full and proud member of the United Nations. We are a peaceful democratic country, based on the rule of law, full respect for human rights and gender equality, and as a young country we consolidating our state institutions.

5. We are a state party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty (NPT), since 2003, and we recognized as a Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS). We signatory to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

6. Timor-Leste has signed the “UN Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (UNTPNW)”. We are in the process of ratification as we view this treaty as an important international norm for peace, our collective security, and preservation of human life.

7. As a signatory to “the Convention on the prohibition of the Development, production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”, Timor-Leste is also concerned with continued access to chemical weapons and to its
use by both state and non-state actors, which brings indiscriminate suffering, in particular to the civilian population, including women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Timor-Leste continues to believe that “international legal instruments and the UN resolutions on disarmament and international security”, are fundamental for sustainable development. Without peace, stability and security, we will not be able to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9. It is in this vain that Timor-Leste continues to promote peace building and state building, together with the other 19 members states, of the Group of 7+, as fundamental guarantees for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially the cross-cutting goal 16, on the nexus between peace, justice and strong institutions and sustainable development. The Group 7+ is an inter-governmental organization composed of member states who are in conflict or have emerged from conflict.

10. Timor-Leste strongly believes in upholding the international the rules-based order, the use of the international mechanisms and the use of dialogue and diplomatic efforts, for the peaceful settlement of dispute amongst states. We have used such a mechanism - Compulsory Conciliation mechanism under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to complete the delimitation of our maritime boundaries with Australia.

11. With an EEZ bigger than our landmass, Timor-Leste is now making efforts, in cooperation with our neighbors to also control our seas and safeguard against terrorism, organized crime and the trafficking of arms through our borders and within the region. We are firm believers in regional cooperation to safeguard security in our region and prevent regional destabilization.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, we look forward to working closely with the other experts of this committee, on our common program of the work to fulfill the mandate of the Committee.

Thank you for your attention.