



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

Statement by

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Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the
United Nations

**High-Level Event to Commemorate the International Day to Combat
Islamophobia**

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General Assembly, UNHQ, New York

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Mr./Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Timor-Leste joins the international community today to commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. We thank the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for organizing this high-level event to address a challenge that affects the very fabric of our global society.

As a nation that deeply values its identity as a multi-faith and pluralistic democracy, Timor-Leste believes that the protection of religious freedom and the combatting of discrimination are fundamental to maintaining international peace and security. Islamophobia—rooted in misinformation, prejudice, and intolerance—not only threatens the dignity of millions of individuals but also undermines the collective progress we seek to achieve through the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

As we are aware, the fight against Islamophobia is closely linked to key international human rights instruments, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, as well as protection from discrimination. These treaties call on states to ensure that individuals can practice their faith freely and live without fear of prejudice or exclusion based on their religious identity.

For countries like Timor-Leste, the principles of mutual respect and social cohesion are not just ideals; they are the pillars of our national stability. We recognize that the rise of hate speech and religious intolerance globally requires a coordinated, multilateral response. We must move beyond rhetoric and focus on:

First, fostering a culture of peace by integrating the values of tolerance and intercultural understanding into our educational systems.

Second, ensuring that national and international frameworks effectively protect individuals from discrimination based on religion or belief.

Third, actively challenging the narratives that fuel fear and division, particularly in digital spaces.

Mr./Madam President,

Timor-Leste remains committed to supporting inclusive oversight mechanisms that ensure no group is marginalized or deprioritized. We stand in solidarity with those facing religious persecution and reaffirm our support for the mandate of the United Nations in promoting a world where diversity is celebrated as a source of strength, not a cause for conflict.

In closing, let this commemoration serve as a catalyst for genuine action. Let us recommit to the spirit of brotherhood and the fundamental human rights that bind us all together.

Thank you.