

Dili, 25 August 2025

Partners' address at the 33rd DTP opening ceremony

*Distinguished guests, dear professors, colleagues, students,
and friends of human rights,*

It is a great pleasure to be once again in Timor-Leste and at UNTL to celebrate the opening of a new edition of the prestigious Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training programme (DTP).

As many of you know, the **Global Campus of Human Rights (GC)** is the world's leading network of universities dedicated to human rights and democracy education. With over 100 member institutions across all continents and eight regional programmes based in Venice, Sarajevo, Pretoria, Buenos Aires, Yerevan, Beirut, Bishkek, and Bangkok (today represented by Professor Mike Hayes from **Mahidol University**), the GC has become a truly global hub of academic collaboration.

Our work is made possible thanks to a privileged partnership with the **European Union**. The GC is one of only three human rights institutions supported as a priority by the EU, alongside the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court.

Exactly six years ago, in this very place, we inaugurated the **Human Rights Centre (HRC)** of the **National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL)**. From 2019 to 2022, the UNTL and the GC, with the **European Union's support**, worked together to establish a Centre that would promote human rights education across the entire university.

Since then, the HRC has become a strong and vibrant reality. It has successfully mainstreamed human rights education into all faculties, developed expertise in the field of children's rights, promoted research and outreach, and built valuable international partnerships.

Recognizing these outstanding achievements, in September 2023 the UNTL was admitted as a full member of the Global Campus by decision of the General Assembly of the one hundred rectors. Since then, we have been proud to continue supporting the consolidation of the HRC.

For this remarkable trajectory, we owe particular gratitude to the leadership of **Rector Professor Joao Soares Martins**, to the former HRC Director Dr. Loro Horta, to the current Director Prof. Armindo Maia, and to the dedicated staff whose commitment has made this success possible.

Yet today, we are not here to reflect only on past achievements, but to focus on the present and the immediate future. At a time when the global system of human rights protection is facing unprecedented challenges, the promotion of human rights is more important than ever.

It is therefore a matter of pride for the Global Campus to co-organize once again the DTP. We hope this will grow into a lasting partnership, ensuring that Timor-Leste remains the home of this programme in the years ahead.

In this regard, allow me to acknowledge with gratitude the co-financing of this edition by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided within the framework of Italy's support to Timor-Leste's ASEAN integration. As an Italian citizen and taxpayer, I am proud to note that this represents the first Italian-financed development project in the country. For the occasion, the **Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the Government, Hon. Giorgio Silli**, has even recorded a special video message for you.

Finally, while institutional support is essential to make such initiatives possible, the true protagonists of today—and of the coming two weeks—are you, our participants and students. You have been selected from about two hundreds applicants, spanning from India to Australia, and form an extraordinary group.

We have done our utmost to ensure that all practical and substantial aspects of your training are well prepared. I am confident that all the elements are in place for a rich learning journey and an unforgettable personal experience.

Make the most of it—enjoy every moment!



Adriano Remiddi
Head of Capacity Development