

WELCOME REMARKS BY PROFESSOR ARMINDO MAIA

34th Edition of Diplomatic Training Program

24 August 2026

H.E. Vice-Minister of ASEAN Affairs of Timor-Leste, Mrs. Milena Rangel
Distinguished Acting Rector of UNTL, Prof. Dr. Cancio Monteiro
Distinguished Representatives of the Australian and NZ Embassies
Distinguished Deputy of PDHJ
Distinguished Representative of UN Human Rights
Distinguished Representatives of NGOs
Colleagues from UNTL Executive
Colleagues from DTP, Global Campus and JSMP
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning! Bom dia!

On behalf of UNTL Human Rights Centre as the Co-host, I am pleased and honored to extend a Warm welcome to all our Distinguished guests, Untl executives, respected facilitators and experts, colleagues and dear participants of the DTP 34th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Program. We sincerely appreciate your time, commitment and contribution to this program. Allow me to acknowledge and sincerely thank in particular the Vice-Minister of ASEAN Affairs, HE Milena Rangel, for graciously accepting our invitation to deliver today's Keynote address. Your presence is both an honour and privilege for our institution, as you are responsible for a portfolio, the ASEAN Affairs, that has recently attained the highest point, the full accession to ASEAN as a full member.

I would like to extend a particular welcome to all participants of this year's training program, for your successfully making it to the selected few out of about 500 applicants. Congratulations, also for the long trip to Dili for some of you from countries like India in Asia and New Caledonia in the Pacific, among fifteen countries of origin of the thirty participants for this edition.

This is the fourth edition of Diplomatic Training Program cohosted by UNTL-HRC, along with our colleagues from the Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP). As in the previous years, the program will run for a full two-week training in Dili and in the overlooking hill of Dare. The trainers are experts in various aspects of human rights closely related to the work of the participants as human rights advocates, defenders and educators.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Human rights are at the heart of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Timor-Leste prides itself as a country that values and firmly upholds human rights among its regional partners in Asia and the Pacific. Our country and our people had been the victim of gross violation of human rights for centuries under colonial rule and military occupation, but we were

determined to put an end to this dark chapter and turn to a new page where we could set the example and being a reference among the international community

Human rights and diplomacy are closely connected. Effective diplomacy requires not only negotiation and representation, but also the ability to understand different perspectives, promote dialogue, address sensitive issues constructively, and uphold the principles and values reflected in international human rights standards. This training therefore provides a valuable opportunity to deepen your understanding of human rights principles and mechanisms, while also exploring how these principles can be effectively integrated into your work as defender and advocates of human rights.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to specially thank the Global Campus of Human Rights, our strategic partner, for the valuable financial support made possible by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Government. This is the third grant generously awarded by the Italian government, and we sincerely believe that your valuable support has been put to the best use over the last three years.

Likewise, we would also like to sincerely thank our partner The Diplomacy Training Program from Australia for their long-standing commitment and expertise in organizing the training, selecting the participants and providing the best experts.

As an academic unit of UNTL, we are equally grateful for all the support we have received from the highest level of the UNTL executives to the bus drivers and logistical unit, including our traditional dancers, who all made possible this event.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to all the governments and organisations that directly or indirectly contributed to the success of this program. A special thank you to all the ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, international agencies and state agencies for honouring us with your presence and support.

Thank you! Obrigado barak!

Prof. Armino Maia

Director

HRC-UNTL