Exchange of views on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon (TPNW)

Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Alexander Schallenberg, Minister of the Republic of Austria, European and International Affairs for convening this important meeting of State Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon (TPNW).

It is a great honor for me to represent Timor-Leste to exchange views to reaffirm our strong commitment to promote and support international efforts to prevent the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons to happen.

Allow me to recall some major steps Timor-Leste has taken to affirm our strong commitment to the TPNW such as: Timor-Leste together with 122 States voted in favor of the draft Nuclear Ban Treaty on 7th of April 2017 which allowed the treaty to be adopted and signed; On the 26th of September 2018, Timor-Leste signed the Treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons at high-level ceremony in New York;

In addition, Timor-Leste has consistently shown its support to UNGA resolutions including the signing of the Comprehensive Safeguard
Agreement, the Small Quantities Protocol and Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement on 28th of September 2009; and voted for disarmament of nuclear weapons and issued joint declarations on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and called for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We all share the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and we all have to agree that a nuclear war cannot be won and therefore must never be fought.

However, the current nuclear threats exposed by the nuclear powers both in the region and beyond has escalated tensions and threatened regional and global peace and stability. This evolving situation shows how fragile we are living in a high-risk security environment of nuclear threat.

Timor-Leste is following with deep concern over the denuclearization of Korean Peninsula issue, the ballistic missile tests in the Korean Peninsula by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In spite of the extensive deliberations, yet it remains on regional high-level meetings’ agenda without any certainty for a settlement in compliance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.
The escalation of Ukraine - Russia war has also generated more uncertainties and discouraged regional efforts to achieve regional security goals on non-proliferation, counter-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. The war in Ukraine has escalated to a hostile situation where a party of the war could justify the use nuclear weapons for self-defense and ignore its destructive effects for humanity. The threat to use nuclear weapons by nuclear power states is setting a precedent for other states of nuclear to justify the use of nuclear weapons to for the sake of self-defense or deterrence weapon.

**Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Against all odds, Timor-Leste continues to believe in the power of peaceful dialogue and constructive role played all States to promote a conducive atmosphere for a peaceful denuclearization of the world.

Timor-Leste, therefore, welcomes the joint statement of the leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States to prevent nuclear war and avoiding arms races. The statement is crucial for implementing Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations. and to comply fully with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and take into account the international community’s call for diplomacy and in the interest of maintaining peace and security in the world.

Our presence here today is to realize our consistence and strong commitment to comply with the provisions of the Treaty. For that
reason, on 25th of April 2022, our National Parliament had ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The ratification of the TPNW is a significant move to realize Timor-Leste’s campaign to abolish nuclear weapons.

Timor-Leste, therefore, calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty. Timor-Leste stands ready to participate in diplomatic efforts or mechanisms to share and exchange views to realize its commitments on the issue and to promote regional and global cooperation for risk reduction and nuclear disarmament.

Finally, Timor-Leste remains committed to support measures to implement Treaty (NPT) obligations, including our article 6 obligation “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Thank you Excellencies for the attention