



The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

**Speech by
H.E. Mariano “Assanami” Sabino Lopes Vice Prime Minister, Coordinating
Minister for Social Affairs and Minister of Rural Development and
Community Housing**

At the Plenary

Qatar National Conference Center

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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address this distinguished assembly at the Second World Summit for Social Development, a historic moment to renew our shared promise of leaving no one behind.

Thirty years ago, the first World Summit in Copenhagen charted a vision of social justice anchored in human dignity. However, today, we gather again in a world still struggling with poverty, Hunger, and exclusion. Over one billion people remain trapped in multidimensional poverty; 3.8 billion have no form of social protection. For far too many, a single shock — a drought, a conflict, an illness — is enough to push them back into Hunger.

We cannot accept this as the new normal.

Social protection is not charity. It is a universal right and a moral imperative, the foundation of peace and the heartbeat of human development. When a mother receives nutritional support, a child is fed, a farmer has access to markets, or a young person secures decent work. We are not merely alleviating poverty; we are building the architecture of lasting peace.

Ending Hunger and malnutrition is the defining test of our time. Malnutrition undermines human capital, weakens economies, and erodes the hope of progress for nations. No society can be truly stable or just when millions of children go to bed hungry or do not receive a healthy diet.

*As the delegated Chair of the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition, I have seen how inclusive and evidence-based policies can change lives. Through this initiative, we are supporting countries that face similar challenges in building nutrition-sensitive social protection systems, as in my own nation, Timor-Leste. **Our Bolsa da Mae Conditional SANUTRIO programme is aimed at showing, how linking cash transfers with nutrition services and food can improve child nutrition and empower women, turning policy into practice that delivers real change.***

*The Global Task Force serves as a platform of hope for **Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and fragile contexts**, whose realities too often remain unheard.
We come not to ask for compassion, but for partnership.*

Today, I call upon governments, development partners, and financial institutions to invest boldly in people, in their right to live free from Hunger, fear, and want. Let us make social protection a global public good: universal, adaptive, and adequately financed through shared responsibility.

*Excellencies,
As we adopt the Political Declaration of this Summit, let us be bold. Let us shape social protection into a shared global resource—available to all, responsive to needs, and supported by collective action.*

Let us invest in people, in their right to live free from Hunger, fear, and want. Let us place the needs of the most fragile at the heart of our global contract, because the test of our humanity is not in how we treat the powerful, but how we protect the powerless.

Together, we can build a world where every child is nourished, every worker is protected, and every nation can stand in dignity and peace.

Thank you.
Obrigadu barak.