



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION TO THE CHARTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

WHEREAS the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as the "ASEAN Charter") was signed on 20 November 2007, in Singapore;

WHEREAS the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has applied to become a Member State of ASEAN on 4 March 2011;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste has made progress in implementing the requirements under the Roadmap and undertakes to prioritise continued implementation of the remaining requirements under the Roadmap, including to accede to all the ASEAN treaties, conventions, agreements, and instruments under the three ASEAN Community pillars, concluded among the present Member States of ASEAN prior to the date of Timor-Leste's admission into ASEAN, based on the schedules and prioritisation criteria in its Annexes. Benefits (including rights and privileges) shall be enjoyed only upon full compliance to all commitments and conditions, as set out in the respective agreements;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste is under the same obligations as the present Member States of ASEAN in respect of statements, declarations, recommendations, and decisions made by them prior to the date of Timor-Leste's admission as a Member State of ASEAN and further undertakes to take necessary measures to ensure their full implementation;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste is under the same obligations as the present Member States of ASEAN in respect of instruments concluded by ASEAN as an inter-governmental regional organisation with third countries or international organisations and shall take necessary measures to facilitate their implementation and application;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste undertakes to prioritise accession to all the ASEAN treaties, conventions, agreements, and instruments concluded by the present Member States of ASEAN with third countries or international organisations prior to the date of admission-based on the schedules and prioritisation criteria in the Annexes of the Roadmap. Benefits (including rights and privileges) shall be enjoyed only upon full compliance to all commitments and conditions, as set out in the respective agreements;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste agrees that, for all the ASEAN treaties, conventions, agreements, and instruments under negotiation and those undergoing upgrade processes, all prior agreed text and negotiated texts are not open to negotiation except for the grant of transition period for Timor-Leste's specific commitments;

WHEREAS Article 6 paragraph 4 of the ASEAN Charter provides that an applicant State shall be admitted to ASEAN upon signing an Instrument of Accession to the Charter;

WHEREAS the 41st ASEAN Summit held on 11 November 2022, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, agreed in principle on Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership, and the 42nd ASEAN Summit held on 10-11 May 2023, in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, adopted the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN;

WHEREAS Timor-Leste expressed its readiness to accede to the ASEAN Charter on 24 September 2024;

WHEREAS the 46th ASEAN Summit on 26 May 2025 has decided by consensus to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th Member State of ASEAN by the 47th ASEAN Summit; and

NOW THEREFORE I, Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation declare that the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, having considered the ASEAN Charter, accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this Instrument of Accession at Dili, Timor-Leste on 20 October 2025.



Bendito dos Santos Freitas
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

