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Timor-Leste

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I. Introduction

1. In 2012 Timor-Leste received recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review Working Group that were adopted on 14 October 2011 in the 12th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with a total of 125 recommendations, and the Timor-Leste delegation accepted 88 recommendations and the 36 most recent recommendations were taken back to Timor-Leste via a decision of the Council of Ministers to be discussed and thoroughly analyzed in order to respond to the Human Rights Council Working Group in March 2012 in Geneva. During the period of implementation some of the recommendations made to Timor-Leste have been followed up and are being implemented and progress has been made, and some are still being dealt with before Timor-Leste accepts the recommendations from the Working Group on the UPR mechanism in 2011.

2. Therefore, Timor-Leste will provide an update on the recommendations that are being implemented in order of priority based on the National Strategic Development Plan (SDP), including obstacles and challenges that Timor-Leste has encountered whilst implementing these recommendations, so that Timor-Leste is open and honest with the Human Rights Council UPR Working Group mechanism. The State of Timor-Leste and its people have a major commitment to improving and spreading the promotion and protection of human rights in Timor-Leste based on a culture of “mutual respect and non-discrimination”. This commitment started when Timor-Leste restored its independence on 20 May 2002 and continued with the ratification of international human rights conventions.

3. This report is submitted for the second cycle of the UPR reporting and includes human rights developments in the country and progress achieved by Timor-Leste, and also outlines the obstacles and challenges faced by Timor-Leste during the process of implementing protection for human rights and possible obstacles and challenges that will be encountered in the future.

4. Timor-Leste recognizes that the UPR mechanism is an important pillar for the process of developing human rights in Timor-Leste. The UPR is also a tool to reinforce the State members so they can exercise human rights effectively and with full freedom to protect human rights at the national and international levels.

II. Methodology

5. This report on the second cycle of the UPR was prepared with the maximum support of the UN Human Rights Advisory Unit in Timor-Leste. The preparation of this report was coordinated by a main team of six (6) people and was led by the Ministry of Justice which was fully responsible and obtained the maximum support of 33 individuals, comprising municipal and line ministry focal points.

6. The technical team held consultations with the wider community and all entities, which was an important part of preparing this report, in the form of public consultations at the national level with key targets such as line ministries, civil society, members of the religious community, the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL), the Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL), health workers, officials from the national human rights institution (Ombudsman) and UN agencies in Timor-Leste with the aim of gathering credible data and information on the implementation of UPR recommendations from the UN Human Rights Advisory Unit in Timor-Leste. The methodology included group discussions and roundtables.

7. The structure of this report is based on the guidelines given by the UN Human Rights Council which cover the State's commitment to ratify international instruments, strengthen institutions, vulnerable groups and economic, social and cultural rights.

III. Results achieved and challenges encountered in the protection and promotion of human rights in Timor-Leste

A. Ratification of international instruments

8. The State of Timor-Leste is carrying out efforts to comply with its commitment to international human rights instruments as stated in its national reports and is currently preparing resources (human and financial) and is endeavoring to increase their institutional capacity to ensure that these international instruments are implemented in the future when the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol is signed and ratified, as recommended by the United Nations Human Rights Council (**Recommendations 79.1 and 79.8**).

9. Based on the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (C-RDTL) Article 95.3 (f) on ratification, it is the competence of the National Parliament, to approve and denounce agreements and ratify international treaties and conventions. A concrete example relates to the ratification of the Convention on Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol as recommended by the Committee and UN Human Rights Council, whereby the National Parliament is waiting for a proposal from the Government, because the Government has a policy of creating favorable conditions and examining and considering all of the circumstances relating to human rights, including the financial impact and the contents of the conventions that are to be ratified, to see if they are going to be ratified partially or fully, depending on the policy and capacity of the Government to sign and ratify these conventions and to assume all of the consequences and responsibilities and to comply with its implementation obligations¹ (**Recommendations 79.1 and 79.8**).

B. Cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms

10. The State of Timor-Leste recognizes that as a State party to most international human rights treaties it has been late in submitting reports to the respective bodies since those treaties were ratified. Although it has been late in doing so, the State of Timor-Leste has complied with its obligations as a State party, and has used its full capacity to prepare its initial report and periodic report on the CEDAW, initial report on the CRC with a combined second and third report, initial report on the ICRMW and initial report on the CAT. Currently the State of Timor-Leste is engaging in a public consultation to draft its initial report on the ICCPR and will endeavor to prepare and submit its initial reports on the ICESCR and the ICERD (**Recommendations 79.12–15**).

11. Although Timor-Leste has not issued a standing invitation to UN Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders, the State of Timor-Leste has received visits from some special procedure mandate holders such as the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights who visited Timor-Leste in November 2011, the working group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances who visited Timor-Leste in November 2011, and Timor-Leste was also visited by the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in December 2008. After their visits, the Special Rapporteur, the Working Group and Representative of Secretary-General submitted their reports to the Human Rights Council on the results of their visits to Timor-Leste (**Recommendations 79.11–79.19**).

C. National legal standards

Laws

12. To guarantee effective and adequate protection for the implementation of the law against domestic violence, the State, through the Ministry of Social Solidarity has managed to implement programs such as the establishment of a protection network for victims of domestic violence and gender based violence in 13 municipalities, has increased the capacity of the national network of support centers to provide direct assistance to shelters through training on operational procedures, has reintegrated victims in the community after they have left shelters, has provided psycho-social support to victims and public awareness raising and the implementation of operational procedures for the referral networks, management of cases on a database which is based on monitoring activities (**Recommendations 77.20–77.25**).

13. The State of Timor-Leste has endeavored to protect human life until natural death as enshrined in Article 29.2 of the C-RDTL which declares that the State recognizes and protects the life of all citizens, and Article 32.1 of the C-RDTL on limits on sentences and security measures states that there will be no life imprisonment, no sentences or security measures lasting for unlimited or indefinite period of time (**Recommendation 79.21**).

14. To ensure the rights and responsibilities of children, youths or adolescents who commit offences or are in conflict with the law, the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Justice is preparing a draft law on Punitive-Educational Measures for children aged 12–16 and a draft Special Regime for youths or adolescents aged 16–21 which has been submitted to the Council of Ministers to be scheduled for discussion and approval. The preparation of these two draft laws included public consultations with State institutions such as the courts, the Public Prosecution Service, the Office of the Public Defender, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Commission on the Rights of the Child (KDL), before final drafts were prepared (**Recommendation 79.33**).

15. As a nation that has ratified the Rome Statute, Timor-Leste has included the provisions of the Rome Statute in national law to criminalize actions that are against humanity, as set out in Article 124 of the Penal Code, namely "Homicide, extermination, forcible deportation of a population, imprisonment or depriving a person of physical liberty in violation of international law, torture, rape, sexual enslavement, forced prostitution, forced sterilization, any form of sexual violence of comparable seriousness, persecution against a group or a collective entity due to politics, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sex, enforced disappearances, apartheid, and inhumane acts that cause suffering, serious injury to body or to mental or physical health" is punishable with 15 to 30 years imprisonment² (**Recommendation 79.9**).

Policies

16. The Fifth Constitutional Government continued to work hard with a policy of making politics non-partisan for civil servants, through the vision and mission of a Ministry of Education policy to eliminate physical/corporal punishment for children in schools that guarantees a "Zero Tolerance" policy with extensive implementation across the entire territory (**Recommendation 77.26**).

17. Discussions on the aforementioned policy have been going well, and this year the policy was being drafted, the Government moved forward with Government Resolution No. 14/2012 Approving the National Policy for the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be implemented. To further guarantee and ensure the implementation of the aforementioned policy and to benefit the proper promotion and

protection of rights for persons with disabilities, Timor-Leste has established a National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2014-2018.

National Action Plan on Human Rights and Action Plan on Children's Rights

18. Timor-Leste has a commitment to the protection and development of human rights in Timor-Leste. Therefore, in 2014 based on an Instruction from Prime Minister, No.17/X/2014, the National Directive Commission (KDN) was established, led by the Ministry of Justice. The KDN comprises representatives from UN agencies in Timor-Leste (Human Rights Advisory Unit and UN-Women Timor-Leste), the Ombudsman, and representatives of civil society and line ministry human rights focal points, and will be given maximum support from a technical team from the Ministry of Justice. The main objective of establishing the KDN is to design and draft the Human Rights National Action Plan. Now the team has completed its desk research and has a plan to conduct field research to provide adequate and credible information to produce a quality National Action Plan on Human Rights (**Recommendation 78.3**).

19. Is now also providing maximum support to the KDL to establish a National Action Plan (NAP) for Children. The KDL is in the process of preparing a NAP for children through a seminar with key ministries and partners to start designing a NAP for children which will provide guidance to Timor-Leste on how to achieve better lives for children in the future. This NAP for children will provide guidelines to support the role of KDL in monitoring line ministries based on recommendations from the CRC Committee (**Recommendation 77.16**).

20. Timor-Leste also has the following action plans: national action plan on gender based violence and a national action plan for zero hunger and also other draft action plans such as an action plan on women, peace and security and a draft action plan on persons with disabilities.

D. Institutions

Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK)

21. As a democratic nation based on the rule of law, Timor-Leste continues to engage in efforts to strengthen and eradicate corruption in Timor-Leste, through the National Parliament which has legislative power as set out in Law No. 8/2009 Against Corruption to combat corruption and safeguard the integrity of institutions, to strengthen effective cooperation between the relevant authorities and bodies and its purpose reflects the spirit of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the State has created an Anti-Corruption Commission with the mission of carrying out preventative actions and criminal investigations relating to crimes of corruption such as embezzlement, abuse of power, influence peddling and economic participation in business as set out in penal provisions (**Recommendation 77.26**).

Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ)

22. The State has engaged in efforts to improve the human and financial resources with the aim of ensuring the functioning of the PDHJ as an independent State institution which is not subject to the influence of other State authorities so it can perform its functions in line with its competencies as enshrined in the C-RDTL and the law. The Government allocates annual funding of USD\$ 1.4 million from the State Budget to finance program activities. The PDHJ is given technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the aim of strengthening institutional capacity (**Recommendations 77.14–77.15**).

Commission on the Rights of the Child (KDL)

23. KDL has a statute based on Ministerial Diploma No. 10/2014 when it was still under the Ministry Of Justice. Based on the policy of remodeling the Sixth Constitutional Government, the Commission is directly accountable to the Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs (MEKAS) and will make efforts to revise and amend Decree-Law No. 6/2015 dated 11 March 2015. The Government of Timor-Leste has provided budgetary support to the Commission to establish its structure but with the remodeling the Commission needs to make the administrative transition over to the MEKAS. The KDL also has limited human resources to appoint leaders because some staff members are studying overseas, but there is a plan for the appointments to occur in 2016.

24. The KDL plays an important role in providing advocacy and carrying out interventions with the relevant ministries on legally related child issues such as registering births, the Draft Law on Punitive-Educational Measures for Minors, a special criminal regime for juveniles, revision of Article 173 of the Penal Code to also provide protection in cases of incest. In the field of education: physical punishment against children in school, school dropout and early pregnancy in school that relates to policies that will guarantee the rights of these minors. In the area of health: child malnutrition, clean water, sanitation and hygiene. In the area of social protection: a policy on child and family welfare including the bolsa da mãe program, a policy on children with disabilities. Also the issue of human trafficking of children domestically and overseas. Another important area is policy to protect child workers. And finally there is child sensitive infrastructure such as roads, buildings, electricity in rural areas³ (**Recommendation 79.11**).

25. The KDL also has an important role in providing advocacy on the State Budget to make it child sensitive to support the allocation of funds to social issues that are linked to the interests of children. Also, there is advocacy on an early childhood development system in Timor-Leste, and currently there are efforts to establish this system. The KDL Secretariat also receives complaints from children, families and communities in relation to acts of violence against children, and most cases received by the commission are referred to the competent institutions to be dealt with in accordance with the law.

26. The Government of Timor-Leste provides opportunities to staff in the KDL to obtain scholarships to improve the skills of staff in administration, rights and policies and social issues. The Government of Timor-Leste's policy of remodeling has had a good impact on the KDL as it was made directly accountable to the Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs, to prepare the institutional management of the Commission, which included revising the statute of the Commission from a Ministerial Diploma to a Decree-Law, developing programs and human resources, increasing State funding to the Commission, and for the Commission to have its own building and land. Given these limitations, the Commission still needs the support of relevant institutions such as national and international Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and also UN agencies (**Recommendation 77.17**).

E. Justice

27. The State of Timor-Leste recognizes that, the justice sector is an important pillar, therefore the Fourth Constitutional Government, through the Ministry of Justice, had the initiative to outline a Justice Sector Strategic Plan which received the maximum support of the Justice Coordination Council (KK)⁴ which also received technical support from the technical secretariat. The Justice Sector Strategic Plan sets out five thematic areas, namely: 1. Institutional Development, 2. Legal Framework Reform, 3. Development of Human Resources, 4. Infrastructure and Information Technology, and 5. Access to Justice, which was drafted based on a situational analysis of the current state of justice, to provide better

implementation in the five thematic areas. Five working groups were also established which comprised representatives from national justice institutions, civil society and international agencies (**Recommendation 77.30**).

28. To improve the judicial system in Timor-Leste, the State of Timor-Leste has made many efforts, concrete example are the efforts of the Ministry of Justice to build the capacity and qualifications of judicial actors representing the pillars of the justice system, and in 2012, 50 police officers in the area of scientific criminal investigations were sent to study in Portugal and in 2013 several private lawyers were given internships in Cape Verde, and in 2015 three judicial actors were sent to participate in training in Macau and now six judicial actors are participating in complementary training in Macau (**Recommendation 77.31**).

29. Judicial actors are an important pillar, and before they perform their duties they are given training by the Ministry of Justice through the Judicial Training Centre which provides training to judicial magistrates and public defenders as part of a plan to provide academic competence for the fifth round of Training for judicial magistrates and public defenders, between 2013 and 2015, to increase their knowledge about torture and mistreatment, especially in relation to vulnerable group such as children, women, the poor and persons with disabilities, with materials focusing on the C-RDTL and fundamental rights, the rights of families and minorities, children's rights and gender, with facilitation by UN agencies such as UNICEF and UN Women (**Recommendation 77.31**).

30. The State has continued its efforts to strengthen judicial institutions therefore the Government, through the Ministry of Justice, has increased the number of staff, namely 34 judges, 34 prosecutors, 31 public defenders, 72 private lawyers and 30 criminal forensic police and now 28 private lawyers are receiving training (**Recommendation 77.32**).

31. In order to strengthen the judicial institutions in terms of finance, the Ministry of Justice no longer administers the finances of the judicial institutions such as the courts and the Public Prosecution Service, and a step has been taken for the judicial institutions to administer their own institutions based on what is most effective for the financial processes of the district courts and Public Prosecution Service. To date there has been no allocation of funds from each court jurisdiction relating to the process of providing financial support to the mobile courts. However, in relation to this issue, since 2012 the mobile courts have been financed by development partners such as the Justice Facility-AusAid and UNDP, and in 2014 when the mission of the Justice Facility ended in Timor-Leste, UNDP continued to provide support to the mobile court program, especially for criminal matters in areas located a long distance from the courts, such as Baucau, Suai and Dili. Also, the courts do not yet have forensic facilities, but forensics are available from the PNTL, the Police Scientific Criminal Investigations (PSIK) and the Guido Valadores National Hospital (**Recommendation 77.32**).

32. The State is currently taking measures to strengthen the judicial system and reduce pending cases, and there are efforts to accelerate case management at the courts with the aim of contributing to the pending cases. In addition, the mobile court program is being conducted in 4 jurisdictions, namely: Dili, Baucau, Suai and Oecusse. In Timor-Leste there is the Dili District Court which covers Ermera, Liquica and Aileu, the Baucau District Court which covers Lautem, Viqueque and Manatuto, and the Suai District Court which covers Ainaro, Manufahi and Bobonaro and the Oecusse District Court which covers the entire Special Administrative Region of Oecusse and each year the State allocates funding of USD 8 million to the courts and USD 4 million to the Public Prosecution Service (**Recommendations 77.33 and 77.34**).

33. Recognizing that pending cases increase every year, for example in 2014 there were 2,128 pending cases and then 2,930 new cases in 2015, which means that the total number

of pending cases and new cases combined was 5,058. However the courts managed to try 2,252 cases including those that were tried by the mobile court program which resulted in a significant reduction in pending cases to 2,806, meaning that during the 2014–2015 period a total of 2,252 were tried. In relation to civil cases, in 2014 there were 737 cases and in 2015 there were 413 new cases, which meant a total of 1,150 cases, and the courts managed to try these cases based on the system that has been established, and although civil cases are not tried by the mobile courts, they were still able to accelerate the process and try 856 cases, and there are 294 cases pending, and the mobile courts managed to provide support and facilitate a reduction in the pending cases at the courts.⁵ However, the State recognizes that the mobile court program also faces challenges, especially in relation to the trial process because sometimes there are a large number of cases and it is difficult to ensure the quality of trials but there is confidence that the trials conducted provide maximum consideration to guarantee fair outcomes. The State recognizes that the mobile court program is not yet adequate⁶ and needs to be improved in the future. In response to the aforementioned issues, the State is engaging in efforts to draft a plan to build appropriate facilities to conduct trials as well as budgetary support from the State budget and the possibility to build courts in all of the municipalities based on the Justice Sector Strategic Plan (**Recommendation 77.34**).

34. To ensure that all people including persons with disabilities can gain access to fair justice, the Sixth Constitutional Government has a plan to include training in curriculum for magistrates comprising judges, prosecutors and public defenders, by teaching these judicial actors about how to deal with persons suffering disabilities such as the blind, the deaf and the mute who are in conflict with law or who are victims, in order to provide them with adequate assistance during the investigative process until a final decision is made to ensure that they are not re-victimized because of their disability. Based on this plan, the aforementioned training will start in 2016 and the trainers will have expertise about disabilities and will be sourced from organizations that focus on the disabled in Timor-Leste.

Transitional justice

35. In relation to the implementation of CAVR and CTF recommendations, the second legislature of the National Parliament is currently drafting a Law on Victims' Reparations, to establish criteria for victims that includes how to obtain international assistance for victims and also the second legislature of the National Parliament in its Annual Action Plan will establish a Memorial Institution, but this will depend on funding and the political will of each parliamentary bench. Meanwhile, President of Parliamentary Committee A said that there have been frequent debates about how to obtain an appropriate solution for the recommendations of CAVR and CTF at the National Parliament, but this is considered to be a very complicated and sensitive issue and therefore members of parliament will debate it and hold an in-depth discussion to find a solution that is prudent in order not to make the victims relive the pain they suffered in the past.⁷ Because the implementation of these recommendations has at times failed to uphold the spirit of *Chega* to ensure that these past acts do not reoccur in the future, there is confidence that the State will implement these recommendations based on the capacity of the State, because the State needs to carefully consider them in order not to cause conflict between Timorese citizens (**Recommendations 79.27–79.31**).

Security sector

36. State institutions such as PNTL and F-FDTL have taken actions in relation to the implementation of Parliamentary Resolution No.4/2014 which was reinforced by Resolution No.8/2014 and Government Resolution No.8/2014 and Resolution No.13/2014 from the Council of Ministers. These resolutions set out the decision of the National

Parliament for the Maubere Revolutionary Council (KRM) to completely cease its activities as well as the Popular Council for the Defense of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (CPD-RDTL) as they were considered illegal because of the statement issued by the KRM group for Parliament to be dissolved and the reorganization of the State, this declaration threatened the State as a sovereign nation or was a violation of the Democratic Rule of Law enshrined in Article 1 of the C-RDTL and provided for in Article 202 of the Penal Code.⁸

37. Timor-Leste reaffirmed that the actions carried out by State agents during the Joint Operation Command (KEOK) comprising the PNTL and F-FDTL implement the aforementioned resolutions properly and in compliance with international and professional standards to arrest KRM members. The operation caused dissatisfaction for some people and the democratic rule of law in Timor-Leste will not ignore the observations and criticism of stakeholders; however it is based on legal confirmation from the courts as the bodies with more authority to make decisions based on concrete evidence. Therefore, to minimize acts that violate human rights in the future, the State of Timor-Leste will continue to endeavor to improve the quality of PNTL and F-FDTL officers so they maintain and respect the law in force in order to carry out their roles professionally and in accordance with international standards, therefore it is necessary to continue to provide capacity building to PNTL and F-FDTL officers on the use of force and respect for international principles (**Recommendations 78.20 and 78.21**).

38. To ensure that State agents, especially PNTL and F-FDTL, perform their role professionally in accordance with rules and the applicable law as a means to increase the knowledge of State agents about the prevention of torture, the use of force and respect for human rights principles, between 2004 and 2015 UN agencies such as the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Unit-United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) together with the Office of the Ombudsman gave training to PNTL officers who attended the training at the Police Training Center. The PNTL officers carried out their roles in accordance with the rules established and in compliance with international standards (**Recommendations 78.23 and 78.24**).

F. Equality and non-discrimination

39. Timor-Leste has a patriarchal system which is a factor in preventing women from obtaining opportunities, causing them to face discrimination and be victims of domestic violence in their homes. Young women also continue to encounter a range of social problems which affect their social, economic, cultural and political life because women are considered to be of secondary importance in the household and society. To improve this situation, and to enable women to have the chance to obtain equality in all sectors and not face discrimination, many efforts have been initiated including those by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI) and the Dili Declaration (DD) entitled “**Invest in women and children - invest in Equality**” which was signed by the National Parliament, the Government, the Church and civil society and witnessed by the President, Prime Minister and President of the National Parliament.

40. As a means of strengthening and disseminating the DD at all levels, the SEPI established a new mechanism to improve the coordination of a Gender Mainstreaming Policy at the national and municipal levels. Also, changes were made to the gender focal points in relation to the gender working group. There is a gender action plan for the 12 municipalities including the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse to implement a commitment known as the municipal commitment to gender equality. The SEPI has changed its name to the Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economical Promotion of Women (SEM) based on the organic law of the Sixth Constitutional Government (**Recommendation 78.8**).

41. The DD provides comprehensive guidelines to the State of Timor-Leste to achieve the goal of dynamic gender equality to ensure gender mainstreaming in national development plans, to develop gender sensitive budgets, to eradicate violence against women and children with an implementation plan with funds to treat domestic violence issues; to develop a mechanism to promote access to property and land rights, equal access to a higher level of education for women and children, including scholarships in the field of natural resource management; the promotion of health policies that are gender sensitive to prevent HIV/AIDS and to promote family planning and to promote integrated community health services; to invest in women through a policy of decentralization⁹, and actions to contribute to achieving the aims of CEDAW (**Recommendation 78.10**).

42. Amongst all of the efforts that Timor-Leste has pursued for gender equality, Timor-Leste was given the privilege from the UN to lead “the new deal and lead the G7+”, which is the first step and Timor-Leste needs greater efforts to be able to compete with other nations in the world. Now, the SEM and the Secretary of State for Security (SES) are leading a consultation on the NAP Resolution 1325. Two Timorese women received a peace network award at the regional level, the first was in 2011 and the second was in 2013. It is hoped that they can be good role models and provide inspiration to other women for peace in society and the nation to acknowledge their dedication and efforts to build peace. The SEPI revised the strategic plan for 2010-2015 to 2012-2017 (**Recommendation 78.9**).

G. Violence and abuse

43. Timor-Leste guarantees effective and adequate protection through the implementation of the law against domestic violence, and the State, through the MSS, has managed to implement programs such as a protection network for victims of domestic violence and gender based violence in 12 municipalities as well as the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse, and has increased the capacity of the national network of support centers to provide direct assistance to shelters through training based on operational standards, has reintegrated victims in communities after they have left shelters, has supported the psycho-social needs of victim and raised public awareness and implemented operational standards to the referral networks, and has provided case management case through a database based on monitoring activities (**Recommendations 77.20–77.25**).

44. The State of Timor-Leste is undertaking many efforts in order to combat domestic violence through the Law Against Domestic Violence and a National Action Plan for GBV and the Government will continue to strive to ensure the effectiveness of implementing this law at the national level and international level through multi-sectoral coordination. There has also been public awareness raising through the SEM and a partnership with civil society at the national level as well as in rural areas through a range of measures, such as: Training/Seminars, interaction through Radio Television TL, Community Radio, publishing public opinions in the newspapers, brochures, magazines, pamphlets and billboards (**Recommendation 78.11**).

45. After the LADV was approved, many cases of DV have been dealt with in accordance with the applicable law in Timor-Leste and sanctions have been imposed for crimes committed, and therefore there has been a significant change since the law was approved, namely a reduction in the number of DV cases which shows that the citizens in our country, namely women, children and men are starting to know their fundamental rights and that domestic violence is a crime and not a private matter. We have confidence that the judicial actors will continue to pay attention to the seriousness of these cases because all families in Timor-Leste need to foster non-violence or zero tolerance and therefore all families need positive action to participate in national development even though many

women are economically dependent on men, so we need to create the conditions and guarantee opportunities to empower them in the domestic and public spheres.

H. Child protection

46. The State has endeavored to promote a population register in Timor-Leste. The Ministry of Justice through the National Directorate of Registry and Notary Services has established a birth registration system for newborn babies in the 12 municipalities and Special Administrative Region of Oecusse as well as Dili with an offline system between 2002–2014, with a total number of 807,817 registrations. According to the law, it is compulsory to register a birth, and the State has taken concrete steps to prepare a memorandum of understanding with hospitals as well as clinics to register children aged 0–5 across the entire territory (**Recommendations 77.40 and 77.41**).

47. Timor-Leste adopted a minimum age to gain access to the labor market based on Article 69 of the Labor Law which establishes the minimum age of 15 to be able to work, and minors aged can conduct light duties.¹⁰ This law prohibits children below the minimum age from performing work that could endanger their life. However, when the State of Timor-Leste ratified International Labour Organization Convention 182 its rules shall apply in the internal legal system according to Article 9 of the C-RDTL and therefore the age of 18 will apply to performing this work and Government Resolution No.1/2014 established the National Commission Against Child Labor to implement and monitor the implementation of the International Labour Organization Convention.

48. The State has established an internal regulation to approve a list of activities that have been considered and prohibited for children under the age of 18, to complement Article 67.2 d) of the Labor Law which prohibits children from performing work because the nature and conditions can be harmful to their health, security no morality¹¹ (**Recommendation 77.29**).

49. The State of Timor-Leste is strengthening its judicial system and upholding the best interests of children who are in conflict with the law. The Ministry of Justice is preparing a Draft Law on Punitive-Educational Measures for Minors aged 12–16 which has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for appraisal and approval and a Draft Special Penal Regime for Minors aged 16-21 which is currently involving public consultation with relevant institutions such as: the courts, the Public Prosecution Service, Office of the Public Prosecutor, the MSS and KDL (**Recommendations 77.9–77.10 and 77.35–77.36**).

50. The Timor-Leste Constitution guarantees that all people have the right to marriage which states that women and men that have free consent have the right to get married in accordance with Article 39.3, which defines 17 as the minimum age for marriage, but according to the civil code the minimum age for marriage is 16 but this requires the authorization and knowledge of parents or the party charged with responsibility. Timor-Leste recognizes that Timor-Leste has not yet defined the minimum age for marriage based on international laws. However, Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030 has specifically included a plan to continue educating the community through the dissemination of information about the impact of early marriage that can have negative impact on a person's life and a person can lose their rights to gain access to education and it can also have a negative impact on a person's reproductive health, especially for girls (**Recommendation 78.25**).

I. Disabilities

51. The State of Timor-Leste is engaging in efforts to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities before ratifying the convention on persons with disabilities, namely: by establishing Government Resolution No. 15/2011, with a multi disciplinary task force to prepare a policy on persons with disabilities, and the Government has also approved Government Resolution No.14/2012 which deals with a policy on promotion and inclusion for persons with disabilities and a Statute for the National Disability Council is being drafted.

52. Also, the Government of Timor-Leste has started establishing the minimum conditions for the development of persons with disabilities in all sectors to ensure their rights, namely: it has established a National Action Plan for persons with disabilities for the 2014-2018 period and has provided a disability allowance through a social security program for persons with disabilities who are aged 17 and above, has provided funding support to institutions such as a center for national rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, as well as providing equal opportunities for adults or children with disabilities to access school through inclusive learning systems and regular learning systems (**Recommendations 77.1–77.8**).

53. Although Timor-Leste has not yet ratified the convention on persons with disabilities, Timor-Leste continues to maintain and reaffirm its commitment to provide maximum attention to persons with disabilities, and according to the 2010 population census there were 48,488 persons with disabilities or 4.6%¹² of the total population of Timor-Leste (**Recommendation 77.6**).

54. The Government of Timor-Leste, through the MSS, has a "**disability allowance**" program for the disabled who are aged 17 and above, and has provided funding support to institutions who provide services to persons with disabilities and has established a National Rehabilitation Center and has continued to disseminate information about the rights of persons with disabilities to the entire community and has organized and given maximum opportunities to persons with disabilities to participate in national and international sporting events, whereby the State of Timor-Leste is endeavoring to start the process of ratifying the international convention on persons with disabilities.

55. Timor-Leste is currently improving some conditions that relate to persons with disabilities to ensure their welfare and also to create favorable conditions before ratifying the convention on persons with disabilities, through the approval of Government Resolution No. 15/2011 to form a multi-disciplinary task force to discuss a draft policy on persons with disabilities. Timor-Leste also recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities which are enshrined and guaranteed in Article 21 of the C-RDTL.

56. The Government, via the Ministry of State Solidarity, has established a working group to prepare a policy on the promotion and inclusion of persons with disabilities through Government Resolution No.15/2011 and has approved this policy through Resolution No.14/2012. It has also established a National Action Plan for persons with disabilities for the 2014–2018 period. In 2015, the Government started discussions and drafted a Statute for the National Disability Council. When it is finalized, this statute will be presented to the Council of Ministers for appraisal so it can be approved in the form of a Government Decree-Law.

57. The Government, through the Ministry of Education, is focusing on ensuring that persons with disabilities gain access to free schooling and the provision of technical assistance to inclusive learning systems as well as currently providing training to 236 teachers with the aim of ensuring that children with disabilities can gain access to regular schools. Also the ME is implementing a policy for children with disabilities to attend public

primary schools with the aim of learning together with other children who do not suffer a disability, with conditions that foster social interaction between them.

58. To better understand how many children have disabilities, the Government has started gathering data in rural areas to identify children with disabilities. Now, the Government is implementing a policy on accessibility to three municipalities as pilots, namely: Dili, Aileu and Lautem, and will continue to all of the other municipalities in the entire territory.

J. Minority groups

59. Since Timor-Leste submitted its report on the first cycle of the UPR there have been no violations of human rights, incidents or vertical or horizontal conflict against minority groups in Timor-Leste. This is because State institutions have always had a good relationship with minority groups, including religious minorities, to create an environment of tranquility and safety in order to create national stability and to ensure harmony and mutual respect (**Recommendation 79.36**).

60. Timor-Leste also recognizes other minority groups, especially groups with different sexual orientations such as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) in Timor-Leste. There is now a group called the coalition of diversity and advocacy (CODIVA) which was established in 2014, and is a member of the NGO forum. This group works with State agents such as the PNTL, MS, CCF, PDHJ and the HIV/AIDS Commission to provide advocacy on HIV/AIDS and rights in order to obtain protection for minority groups, especially those with different sexual orientations, at the national and municipal levels. The CODIVA has a network in six municipalities, namely Baucau, Viqueque, Bobonaro, Oecusse, Aileu and Covalima.

K. Economic, social and cultural rights

Adequate level of living

61. To achieve progressive economic, social and cultural rights based on the capacity of the State, the Government of Timor-Leste has continued its efforts to guarantee that citizens have an adequate level of living, especially adequate housing, and the Government has various programs to provide adequate housing to the vulnerable and their families, namely: the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and also SEPFOPE and the MSS have built houses for the vulnerable in rural areas. To implement this program, the Government has acknowledged that even though there have been strong efforts to provide housing to the vulnerable, there are still shortages of construction materials from overseas which has undermined guarantees for the maintenance and sustainability of these houses, but the Government will change this system in the future with the optimal use of local materials.

62. As a way to prevent food insecurity in Timor-Leste, the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) has cooperated with the UN-WFP agency to develop a NAP on zero hunger, which provides guidelines to Timor-Leste to ensure its food security. To implement food security in practice, the MAP continues efforts to guarantee food security and therefore to provide guarantees to families in rural areas. The food security situation in Timor-Leste during 2015 saw some changes and an increase especially in relation to the production of maize and rice which is circulating in the market, which can also guarantee food security for families/households (**Recommendations 77.43 and 78.29**).

Health

63. The State has continued its efforts to improve the health system, and education to achieve social and economic development. The Government has taken steps, through the Ministry of Health, to implement malnutrition programs in the hospitals and nutrition advocacy programs for all citizens through information on the prevention of malnutrition and about the consumption of nutritious local foods. There has been further development of the knowledge of health professionals and doctors through specialized training to increase the quality of comprehensive service provision on infectious diseases that are prevalent in Timor-Leste and a national campaign to increase awareness on basic information about HIV/AIDS to different segments of the population such as students, religious institutions, local authorities to provide a better understanding of how HIV/AIDS is transmitted so people can protect themselves from this infectious disease, and to provide specific services and treatment to at-risk groups. The Ministry of Health is working together with UN agencies, national and international NGOs, religious institutions, State institutions such as F-FDTL, PNTL, MSS and community leaders with the aim of combating these infectious diseases¹³ (**Recommendations 78.32 and 78.33**).

64. The implementation of the programs relating to public health mobilizes technical assistance and resources to combat infectious diseases, and the Government is taking measures through the Ministry of Health to provide rural WASH facilities to offer clean water facilities to communities, to make plans that directly involve the communities in building clean water systems with the aim of promoting ownership of these systems. Facility Management Groups have been established to maintain clean water systems and keep them operational to facilitate community access to clean water and to guarantee drinking water that is secure and hygienic, adequate sanitation and to educate communities to promote basic sanitation in each household by categorizing households based on environmental health, clean water treatment facilities for households, analysis of the quality of drinking water through the National Laboratory, and the control of dengue and malaria vectors in each household, also the creation of a demand in each household to establish and use toilets and hand washing through a community action plan that provides information on sanitation and hygiene, education and WASH communication through the Integrated Health System Program SISCA and also WASH campaigns through the media (**Recommendations 78.34 and 78.35**).

65. The Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Health, will continue with the Integrated Health System Program (SISCA) to provide services to populations in rural areas to guarantee that everyone has access to health. Although the SISCA program has advantages in that it brings health closer to the people in communities in rural areas, however the State recognizes that the SISCA program has shortcomings, especially limitations in the number of health professionals, a lack of medicine, some equipment is missing, difficulties with transport to access rural areas because of basic infrastructure especially roads that do not have bridges which makes it difficult for the SISCA program during the rainy season.

66. Although there are a range of challenges, the Government is continuing efforts to overcome these circumstances through concrete action to respond to these situations and to guarantee that everyone can have access to basic health. Now, the Ministry of Health is planning to strengthen health programs in rural areas, and the Ministry of Health will send five health professionals to each village to provide maximum support for health programs, and the five health officers will comprise a general doctor, two midwives, a nurse and a pharmacist. The five health professionals will start their work this year. The aim of placing health professionals in rural areas is to facilitate and provide first aid to communities in emergency situations where it is not possible to take people to the national hospital or referral hospital.

67. The State has endeavored to continuously improve quality in the field of health, and now the Ministry of Health has a specific program for medical staff to conduct physical and psychological examinations, and each year the Ministry of Health is conducting training through the National Institute of Health to carry out programs on medical forensic examinations which will be provided annually to medical staff, and to date 36 people have received training to carry out their work in the courts, when the need arises as well as Ministry of Health has established cooperation agreement with academic institutions in overseas specifically with country that has identified to provide a specific training for Timorese students.

68. The Government of Timor-Leste continues to endeavor to reduce malnutrition in Timor-Leste, especially in relation to children. As a means of reducing malnutrition in Timor-Leste the Ministry of Education has conducted school feeding programs through a partnership with the UN Agency WFP, and this program has been implemented since 2006 until now in all municipalities as well as the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse. However, in 2012 the Government of Timor-Leste provided food for the school feeding program and also provided funding to purchase vegetables to accompany the food provided in the school feeding program and the aim of this school feeding program, in addition to reducing malnutrition, is for students to be motivated to learn during school hours (**Recommendation 78.30**).

69. The Prime Minister office together with Ministry of Health has launched the specific programme on “Basic Family Health” in 2015. Aim of this programme is to protect and develop better basic care on health of vulnerable families in rural areas of all territory in Timor-Leste.

Education

70. To improve the quality of education and ensure that education programs pay specific attention to women, the Government, through the Ministry of Education, from 2011 onwards has provided pedagogical, ethics and Portuguese language training to all educators as well as specialized training or “bachelor” to those educators who were not previously trained as teachers. Also, the vision of the National Education Strategic Plan states that all Timorese should have access to school and receive a quality education to contribute to national development and for this reason the Ministry of Education has made changes to the periodic examination system to encourage educators to routinely or regularly approach each student and evaluate his/her daily study activities from the first year to eighth year and the students who study in year nine will have a national exam to measure their knowledge and they will be given a pass or fail in this exam.

71. Some measures have been adopted to improve the quality of education through comprehensive curriculum reform. In 2013 the Ministry of Education conducted curriculum reform for grades 1 to 6 and adopted a curriculum law that refers to education centers to promote participative teaching methodologies. In 2015 the Ministry of Education also started to introduce lesson plans for grade 1 to 4 with Social Science lessons also integrated with materials such as gender, disability, respect for diversity and protection for children against violence and abuse.

72. To facilitate the learning process for children in primary schools, the Ministry of Education has been working together with UNESCO Timor-Leste to promote mother tongues to make it easier for students to have a better understanding about teaching lessons and materials. These programs were first implemented in the municipalities of Lautem, Manatuto and the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse as pilot projects and will be expanded to all municipalities in Timor-Leste.

73. The education policy provides equal opportunities to all people to gain access to education regardless of their sex, and specifically addresses female students so they do not drop out and encourages parents to provide equal opportunities to their daughters and sons to gain access to education. Educators have the obligation to help provide solutions to children to gain access to schools. The enrolment rate during the last three years at primary school was 95.99% and for secondary school it was 60.48% and the Ministry of Education has zero tolerance for any form of violence against children in schools, and if it occurs the teaching body or education agents will remove the person from his/her position, and if a crime has been committed then proceedings will take place in accordance with the applicable law¹⁴ (**Recommendations 78.39 and 78.40**).

Non-formal education

74. The Government of Timor-Leste has implemented a literacy program with the motto "I can do it" which started in 2010. To implement this program the Government of Timor-Leste engaged in bilateral cooperation with the Government of Cuba whereby 63,243 people are no longer illiterate and 57,506 have taken the Alfamór program (equivalency course)¹⁵. 67 Timorese trainees have been adequately trained to facilitate the literacy process¹⁶ (**Recommendation 77.43**).

75. With a united vision to be free from illiteracy, Timor-Leste is continuing the literacy program that started in 2010, and the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Education, has an agreement with the Government of Cuba to continue this program. The Government of Cuba will send more teachers to facilitate the literacy program in Timor-Leste, because since it was implemented the literacy program has not achieved its dream of freeing Timor-Leste from illiteracy. Therefore, the Government of Timor-Leste wants to continue with the literacy program so that all Timorese will be free from illiteracy.

Land

76. The State of Timor-Leste has a commitment to continue efforts to promote and protect human rights, including promotion and protection that relates to land laws, therefore, the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Justice, is preparing a package of land laws, namely Draft Law on Special Regime on the Definition of Ownership of Immovable Assets and a Expropriation Law for the Public Interest which includes a real estate fund which has been approved by the Council of Ministers, and the approval of the package of land law will ensure the rights of citizens to obtain ownership of land and property which is enshrined in Article 54.1 of the C-RDTL which states that every individual has the right to private property and can transfer it during his or her lifetime or on death, in accordance with the law.¹⁷ The draft package of land laws will further complement Decree-Law No. 27/2011 that deals with ownership of immovable assets for undisputed cases (**Recommendations 77.11 and 77.12**).

Social protection

77. The Government of Timor-Leste continues to endeavor to increase the capacity of social protection services for the community, such as primary health care and education, and is conducting campaigns and implementing nutrition programs for children and taking appropriate measures to resolve technical issues about information and education, including measures to increase agricultural production and to monitor food insecurity to ensure feeding programs (**Recommendations 77.42 and 77.45**).

Work

78. As a way of reducing unemployment in Timor-Leste, the Government, through the Secretary of State for Employment Policy and Vocational Training (SEPFPOPE), has created

a policy to provide work to Timorese people, especially young people given the high numbers that exist. Therefore the Government issued Council of Ministers Resolution No. 24/2013, which grants competence to SEPFOPE to implement this program with the aim of increasing employment in the country.

79. Based on this resolution, SEPFOPE has initiated a range of employment trainings for those seeking work, especially young people, so they can obtain work based on their area of knowledge. SEPFOPE has also disseminated the Labor Law and Labor Code at all levels to encourage companies, employers and the workforce to adhere to these laws. To increase the capacity of workers, SEPFOPE has initiated a range of course to build the capacity of workers so they can meet prerequisites and to respond to the needs of the unemployed.

80. To get a better understanding of the workforce, SEPFOPE conducted the 2013 workforce survey which offers a lot of information about the current employment situation in Timor-Leste. Specifically, the survey provides data about employed and unemployed, as well as other components of the workforce including the underutilization of workers because domestic workers lack knowledge in specific work areas. In order to support Timorese people to obtain work, the Government has created a policy through SEPFOPE to set up training for industry, community tourism, and has opened up a training center on floriculture, horticulture as well as other relevant trainings to increase peoples' level of knowledge to gain access to work. Therefore, in order to promote employment in Timor-Leste, SEFOPE has facilitated and conducted mediation to seek work with institutions or the private sector who provide employment, and has created relationships with partners such as international and national NGOs, civil society bodies to obtain employment opportunities, to conduct surveys and analysis of the labor market, to develop and issue information about the labor market.

81. The Government of Timor-Leste, through SEPFOPE, has engaged in efforts to seek a comprehensive range of methods to reduce domestic unemployment, with the mission of promoting quality employment creation to combat domestic unemployment as a public service under the SEPFOPE, to establish a concentrated service with a structure that provides support to all clients across Timor-Leste, as a public service that provides guidance on professional training, distributes information to clients who are seeking information about locations and work (**Recommendation 77.42**).

82. The current situation in Timor-Leste is that many people of reproductive age between 15–64 are seeking work, and therefore the Government, through the SEPFOPE, is endeavoring to create a program of providing work in rural areas, even though the work that the Government creates will be on a minor scale, but nevertheless there are efforts to create work in rural areas to allow the population at the grass roots level to gain access to work, for example: SEPFOPE has created work in building rural roads, capacity building and has set up work in the field of community tourism, and has set up work in agriculture, as well as a range of industries to reduce the level of unemployment in Timor-Leste.

83. The efforts of the Government to reduce unemployment, especially in rural areas has included: the recruitment of young people from rural areas to work overseas, and before these young people go and work overseas they are given capacity building based on the prerequisites set out in a memorandum of understanding with each country that needs Timorese workers. To improve the quality of Timorese workers so that they can compete with workers from other countries, there needs to be good cooperation between the Government and partners, especially the private sector, to provide support in increasing the quality of workers because to date the Government has encountered problems with insufficient funding for training and capacity building to set up training centers, and therefore the Government has cooperated with the private sector to facilitate these programs. In response to a question asking if the Government has a policy to help people

gain access to employment, the Government is still facing obstacles in relation to the quantity of people who can access the limited amount of employment, which is only up to 30% and it is hoped that the private sector will facilitate 70% of the workers within the country (**Recommendation 77.44**).

L. Others

Human trafficking

84. The State of Timor-Leste has taken measures, in relation to the implementation of its action plan and relevant policies, including legislation on Human Trafficking, to ensure the rights of citizens to access the courts. The Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Justice, has prepared a Draft Law on Human Trafficking which has been approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the National Parliament for appraisal and approval as a law that will further complement Article 163 of the Penal Code which deals with human trafficking and Article 165 which deals with trafficking in human organs, and the law that is being produced will guarantee the rights of victims of human trafficking to obtain compensation, as well as for witnesses (**Recommendation 79.10**).

85. In 2016 the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prime Minister re-established a Working Group to combat human trafficking which comprises members of the relevant ministries and representatives of civil society to establish a National Action Plan to combat human trafficking. In addition, Timor-Leste has also signed and adopted an Action Plan to fight against human trafficking among the member States of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Nations (CPLP).

Cooperation with civil society

86. To date, the Government of Timor-Leste has had good cooperation with civil society for all processes, such as involving civil society in public consultations to collect data for reporting needs because civil society is a government partner which is a key actor that has good links at the grass roots level. Also, civil society is involved in the dissemination of UPR recommendations at the national level and at the grass roots level. Finally, there was a round table discussion for consolidation and validation of the data and information for the second cycle of UPR reporting, whereby civil society was fully involved and gave constructive inputs and comments.

87. The Government of Timor-Leste had good cooperation with other international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Timor-Leste Red Cross (CVTL) to organize a national conference and seminar on implementation of international humanitarian law in Timor-Leste and Indonesia as neighboring countries which also involved civil society and secondary school students.

88. The coordination between Government and civil society organizations on national security matters shows positive signs of coordination. Example, the Government provided access to civil and media to monitor the joint operation (HANITAR) of F-FDTL and PNTL against insurgent groups in 2015. Thus, NGOs had the chance to raise and advocate human rights abuse issues in relation to the operation through the working group established under PM office since 2015 which composed by NGOs working on security issues and the Office of PM.

International technical assistance

89. Timor-Leste has had good cooperation with United Nations agencies, because these agencies provide technical and financial assistance to the Government of Timor-Leste to write its periodic reports on the CEDAW, and its initial CAT report and second cycle UPR

report, with the support of the UN Human Rights Advisory Unit, UN-Women. The Government of Timor-Leste also received support from UNICEF-Timor-Leste who provided support with the writing of the combined second and third CRC report and provided support to KDL to establish a NAP for children (**Recommendations 78.1 and 78.5**).

90. Timor-Leste has had good cooperation with civil society organizations and human rights organizations in ASEAN, representatives from Timor-Leste always participate in Asian forums and also other forums that deal with human rights issues and other issues that Asian countries are facing. A concrete example is the good cooperation between Timor-Leste and other nations in Asia and this year Timor-Leste has been selected to host the 2016 ASEAN PEOPLE'S FORUM (APF). This forum is a regional forum established with the aim of building solidarity between the ASEAN community and is a forum to link civil society in ASEAN regarding important issues which include human rights (**Recommendation 78.5**).

Dissemination of information

91. When Timor-Leste submitted its responses to the recent recommendations, there was excellent cooperation between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Office of the Ombudsman, civil society and the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section-UNMIT in Timor-Leste. These institutions managed to conduct campaigns and provide advocacy at the national level on the UPR recommendations at the level of Government and line ministries on 12 October 2012. Also, the Ministry of Justice through the DNDHC has been engaging in awareness raising about the UPR recommendations at the municipal level, and in six municipalities in particular which have been targeted for public consultation in 2010 for the first UPR report.

Notes

- ¹ From an interview with the President of Committee A of the National Parliament.
- ² Penal Code, Article 124.
- ³ Response to a questionnaire from the KDL.
- ⁴ KK is a consultative body of the Ministry on justice issues that was established by the MJ.
- ⁵ Provided by a source at the Court of Appeal.
- ⁶ General observations of the judicial sector. JSMP Annual Report, page 16.
- ⁷ Interview with President of Committee A of the National Parliament.
- ⁸ Article 1 of the C-RDRTL and Article 202 of the Penal Code.
- ⁹ DD, Invest in women and children – invest in Equality.
- ¹⁰ Labor Law, Article 69.
- ¹¹ Labor Law, Article 67.2 d.
- ¹² 2010 Census.
- ¹³ Information sourced from additional CRC report.
- ¹⁴ Information sourced from an additional CRC report.
- ¹⁵ A source from the Ministry of Education, responding to a questionnaire.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ C-RDRTL, Article 54.1.