



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

Universal Periodic Review

Timor-Leste

16 March 2017

Statement deliver by H.E. Mr. Marciano da Silva

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Thank you, Mr., President.

Distinguished Members and Observers of the Human Rights Council,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to address this Council on the occasion of the consideration and adoption of our national report.

On behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, Mr. President, to the Troika composed of the Netherlands, China and South Africa and the Secretariat for all their support in the preparation of this exercise. Let me also thank the 59 States that intervned and made recommendations on November 3, all your comments were taken into consideration and we appreciate the words of encouragement that aim to improve the situation of our country.

Timor-Leste undertakes a strong commitment to improving and promoting the human rights of its citizens based on a culture of mutual respect and non-discrimination.

My country acknowledges the mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review as an important pillar in the development of human rights in Timor-Leste, which promotes open and constructive dialogue.

The report of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review was carried out with the support of a United Nations Human Rights Advisory Team, to which we express our gratitude.

Mr. President,

For Timor-Leste, the consultation process is central to this exercise that culminates today. For this reason, the technical team responsible for preparing the national report organized consultations with relevant ministries, civil society, members of the religious community, the National Police of Timor-Leste, officers of our National Human Rights Institution and various United Nations agencies present in Timor-Leste. We did so because we wanted to gather a credible and comprehensive set of information that would reflect the situation in Timor-Leste.

We wish to express a special thanks to the civil society that has been involved in this process from the beginning, in particular we recognize the presence in this room of our National Ombudsman for Human Rights.

Mr. President,

Timor-Leste faces several challenges but our commitment to the defense of human rights remains unwavering. We want to develop a strong society and we know that for this we have to guarantee our citizens the enjoyment of their inalienable rights. We firmly believe that the participation in this process of the Universal Periodic Review is a firm step in that direction.

Of the 154 recommendations, we received in this second cycle, which received our full attention, 146 enjoy our support, while 8 recommendations were noted. My Government has decided to differ its position on the recommendations so far, because we have chosen to submit them to our Council of Ministers.

Moreover, of the 146 recommendations that Timor-Leste has accepted, 14 have already been implemented and 118 are being implemented.

Mr. President,

Let me make some additional considerations.

I would like to focus on the recommendations related to the rights of women and children to affirm that Timor-Leste has already adopted a National Plan on Gender-Based Violence, which is in the second phase of implementation, and recently adopted a National Action Plan on children. I inform the distinguished Council that Timor-Leste is preparing a new Civil Registry Law that will help ensure that all children in Timor-Leste are registered at birth.

The promotion and protection of women's rights continues to be a priority for my country, which has been committed to highlighting the importance of the role of women in political and national development by investing in education and economic and political participation.

Several States have recommended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and I reiterate the commitment of my Government to ratify this Convention shortly.

Mr. President,

My country will have presidential elections next March 20 and the legislative elections are scheduled for the month of July this year. For the first time during these elections, Timorese nationals residing abroad will be able to exercise the right to vote in their country of residence. This reflects Timor-Leste's effort to involve all its citizens in the democratic political process.

Timor-Leste encourages the visit of all the Representatives of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, even though we recognize there are some delays in responding to these requests, we are working to improve our communication channels.

Access to justice is a fundamental right that faces a number of obstacles, such as the lack of human and technical resources and lack of knowledge of the available means of access to justice. We believe that it is an obligation of the State to educate its citizens in this important area, it is essential to ensure that all citizens have access to justice and that they are informed of their rights. We are working together with local and international partners to strengthen our judicial system and would like to highlight the existence of mobile courts and the creation of Access to Justice Clinics.

Mr. President,

As the Minister of Justice, Ivo Valente, said when he came to present our national report, it is with a deep feeling of gratitude for the United Nations support that we are here today and we reiterate our commitment to promotion and protection of human rights.

My country reiterates its commitment to working with this Council and the other United Nations Mechanisms.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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Considerações finais

Thank you, Mr. President,

It is an honor to take the floor once again and address this Council for the concluding remarks of Timor-Leste.

As I said in my opening remarks, Timor-Leste is committed to the Universal Periodic Review process and considers to be very important and enriching the comments and recommendations that all countries have made to Timor-Leste, and once again thank them for their participation. We also recognize the non-governmental organizations present here that have ensured that our consultation process is robust and valid. We pride ourselves on being a country with a strong civil society that helps the Government in the advocacy of citizens' rights.

I conclude by expressing my deep gratitude to the Secretariat and the Troika (Netherlands, China and South Africa) for the efforts and support given to my delegation throughout the process of the Universal Periodic Review of Timor-Leste.

I thank you Mr. President.