

UPR WORKING GROUP – Twelfth SESSION  
(3-14 October 2011)

UPR of Timor-Leste – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE  
(12 October 2011)

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Timor-Leste and thanks the delegation for its presentation and National report. India acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by the young nation in promoting and protecting the human rights in the country.

02. Over the last decade, Timor-Leste has made notable efforts in putting in place legislative and normative frameworks and building institutions to facilitate the enjoyment of human rights of its citizens. We note the progress made in reconstructing its judicial system, which has been able to reduce the number of pending court cases considerably. We also commend efforts made in the area of health and education, housing, childcare and gender equality.

03. The Report acknowledges that domestic violence is a serious problem, and points out steps taken by the Government to deal with the issue, including adoption of the Law Against Domestic Violence. The country is also in the process of enacting other laws to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and a Law on human trafficking. We encourage Timor-Leste to accelerate these processes and pay particular attention to their effective implementation.

04. Given the fact that about 60% of the total population is composed of children and young people under the age of 24, we appreciate Timor-Leste's commitment in promoting free and compulsory education in primary and secondary schools. The Education Strategic Plan 2011-2030, which outlines a commendable programme of education with a target of 88% enrolment in basic education by 2015, is a good step in this direction. We would like the delegation to elaborate on how this plan aims to address the issues of early drop-outs, girl's education, access for children in the remote areas, and attention to children with disabilities.

05. My delegation notes with appreciation that the Human Rights and Justice Ombudsman is amongst those National Institutions accredited with the ICC that enjoys "A" status. We would request the delegation to inform us how the Ombudsman has functioned in the recent past and how it intends to address concerns that have been expressed with regard to its insufficient budget and lack of staffing.

Thank You, Madam President.

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