

Human Rights Council adopts outcomes of Universal Periodic Review of Uganda, Timor-Leste and the Republic of Moldova

Human Rights Council

AFTERNOON

16 March 2017

The Human Rights Council this afternoon adopted the outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda, Timor-Leste and the Republic of Moldova.

[Timor-Leste sections only]

Marciano Octavio Garcia Da Silva, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said that Timor-Leste accepted 146 of the 154 recommendations it had received and had already implemented 14 while 118 were in the process of being implemented. A National Plan on gender-based violence and an Action Plan on children had been adopted, while the new Civil Registry Law would ensure that all children were registered at birth. The presidential elections would take place in 2018, and for the first time, nationals abroad would be able to vote.

The Human Rights and Justice Ombudsman of Timor-Leste recognized the progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, which, in the face of historic and current challenges facing a young nation should not be under-estimated. Still, efforts alone were not enough, especially in light of the rising inequalities within the society, which meant that a large number of people still did not enjoy their human rights.

Speakers welcomed the efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights, notably to provide housing for vulnerable populations, and in combatting torture and ill-treatment, achieving gender equality, fighting child labour and protecting children's rights. Speakers urged Timor-Leste to adopt policies to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, to continue to develop its health services, and to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Speaking were Venezuela, Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Sudan.

Also taking the floor were Amnesty International, Action Canada for Population and Development, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, American Association of Jurists, and International Volunteerism Organization for Women, and Education and Development–VIDES (joint statement).

The Council then adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Timor-Leste.

Consideration of the Outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Timor-Leste

MARCIANO OCTAVIO GARCIA DA SILVA, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations Office at Geneva, acknowledged the mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review as an important pillar in the development of human rights in Timor-Leste. Of the 154 recommendations received, 146 enjoyed Timor-Leste's support, while 8 recommendations were noted. Of the accepted recommendations, 14 had already been implemented and 118 were in the process of being implemented. Timor-Leste had already adopted a National Plan on gender-based violence, as well as an Action Plan on children. A new Civil Registry Law would ensure that all children were registered at birth. Timor-Leste would hold presidential elections in 2018, and for the first time, nationals abroad would be able to vote. Access to justice was a fundamental right that faced a number of obstacles, and it was the obligation of the State to educate its citizens in that important area so they were informed of their rights. Timor-Leste was working with local and international partners to strengthen its judicial system and highlighted the existence of mobile courts. It was with a deep feeling of gratitude for United Nations support that Timor-Leste was presenting its report, and the country reiterated its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and to working with the Council and other United Nations mechanisms.

Human Rights and Justice Ombudsman of Timor-Leste recognized the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights for all in the country, which in the face of the historic and current challenges facing a young nation should not be under-estimated. Still, efforts alone were not enough, especially in the light of the rising inequalities within the society, which meant that a large number of people still did not enjoy their human rights.

Venezuela welcomed the cooperation of Timor-Leste with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and its efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights, notably to provide housing for vulnerable populations.

Algeria commended the results achieved by Timor-Leste in the promotion and protection of human rights, notably in combatting torture and ill-treatment, achieving gender equality, fighting child labour and protecting children's rights.

Angola congratulated Timor-Leste for having accepting the majority of recommendations, especially for having prioritized social protection policies in rural areas and those pertaining to girls. Angola expressed hope that the upcoming elections would promote democracy and stability.

Brazil noted positively the acceptance of Brazil's recommendation on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, and the right to health. It encouraged Timor-Leste to promote gender equality and to adopt policies to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Brunei Darussalam commended Timor-Leste for the large majority of recommendations it had accepted, including the recommendation put forward by Brunei Darussalam to ensure that people continued to have access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas.

Cabo Verde said new and numerous measures were being prepared or were anticipated and their entry into force would bring about significant progress. Timor-Leste was commended

for having accepted so many of the recommendations made to them, and the country was encouraged to continue along the path of progress.

China welcomed Timor-Leste's participation in the Universal Periodic Review and for accepting China's recommendations which included continuing to develop its health services. China urged the international community to provide technical assistance to assist Timor-Leste in protecting human rights.

Cuba congratulated Timor-Leste for its commitment to human rights and its achievements in the areas of health and education. Recommendations made by Cuba had been accepted by Timor-Leste, and Cuba supported the approval of the Universal Periodic Review report for Timor-Leste and wished the country success in achieving its objectives.

Indonesia welcomed Timor-Leste's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights through judicial strengthening. Indonesia commended Timor-Leste for accepting all of its recommendations, including adopting an integrating national human rights action plan. Indonesia supported the adoption of the outcome document.

Iraq said that Timor-Leste had presented an excellent report and was glad to see Timor-Leste had accepted Iraq's recommendations, including on persons with disabilities and submitting reports to treaty bodies. It was hoped that the Council would adopt the outcome report.

Lao People's Democratic Republic was pleased to note the continued efforts by the Government of Timor-Leste to promote and protect human rights. Timor-Leste was commended for the progress made on the promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities.

Malaysia welcomed the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to bring about progress and development for its people. Malaysia was encouraged by Timor-Leste's efforts to continue to take a balanced approach to all aspects of human rights, paying particular attention to those in the most vulnerable situations.

Maldives appreciated that Timor-Leste had accepted two recommendations made by Maldives, namely to continue efforts to improve access to health care services, and to finalize the creation and facilitate the functioning of a national council for persons with disabilities. It welcomed the commitment of Timor-Leste to combat gender-based violence through a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach.

Nicaragua welcomed the fact that Timor-Leste had already made progress in implementing the recommendations. It called on the Government to pay particular attention to the rights of the most vulnerable groups, namely women, children and persons with disabilities.

Pakistan welcomed Timor-Leste's establishment of the National Directive Commission to develop a national action plan for children, and legislation such as the Law against Domestic Violence.

Philippines commended Timor-Leste for having accepted the Philippines' recommendations regarding the ratification of the International Labour Organization's Domestic Workers Convention, and to provide adequate funding and human resources to its national human

rights institution. It also welcomed the adoption of national action plans on children, gender-based violence, rights of persons with disabilities, and mental health.

Republic of Korea thanked Timor-Leste for its engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process, and commended the country's efforts in building a nationwide health services network. The Republic of Korea appreciated that Timor-Leste had issued a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders.

Sudan thanked Timor-Leste for its presentation and commended the Government for its promotion and protection of human rights. Sudan noted that Timor-Leste had accepted the majority of the recommendations, including those made by Sudan.

Amnesty International regretted the lack of justice, truth and reparation for women and girls who suffered sexual and gender-based violence by members of the Indonesian security forces and their auxiliaries, as well as Timorese men, during the Indonesian occupation and the independence referendum.

Action Canada for Population and Development, speaking on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative, said many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were subjected to high levels of violence and discrimination. The Government was urged to amend its penal code and to implement rights-based training of police and other law enforcement authorities to allow them to respond to victims of crimes without discrimination.

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development regretted the Government of Timor-Leste's explanation that its media law was in line with international standards. Timor-Leste was called upon to amend the media law in line with international standards. It was appreciated that Timor-Leste had accepted 146 of the 154 recommendations it had received.

American Association of Jurists commended Timor-Leste for its efforts in building an inclusive and democratic society. Timor-Leste was recommended to ratify the international instruments to which it had not yet acceded, and to implement the children's and human rights' national action plans. The dialogue with the treaty bodies should be strengthened.

International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES, in a joint statement with Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, noted with deep concern that further efforts were required to fully ensure women's and children's rights. Corporal punishment, particularly in the education system, was still present, and women and girls were often victims of violence in their own families, for which effective measures had to be adopted.

MARCIANO DA SILVA, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said that Timor-Leste was committed to the Universal Periodic Review process. The country recognized that the present non-governmental organizations had ensured that the consultation process was robust and valid. Timor-Leste prided itself of being a country with a strong civil society that helped the Government in the advocacy of citizens' rights.

The Vice President of the Council said that out of the 154 recommendations, 146 enjoyed the support of Timor-Leste, while eight were noted.

The Council then adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Timor-Leste.

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