

Press Release

19th Session of the Human Rights Council adopted the UPR Report of Timor-Leste

Geneve- Friday, 16 March 2012.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted the UPR Report of Timor-Leste during its 19th Session today at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. During the interactive dialogue on Timor-Leste's National Report, 125 recommendations were addressed to Timor-Leste on measures to be taken for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Out of these, Timor-Leste delegation accepted 88 recommendations, rejected 1 (one) recommendation, and deferred the decision regarding the remaining 36 recommendations to the Government in Dili.

The response of the Government of Timor-Leste regarding the 36 remaining recommendations was presented to the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council by Timor-Leste's delegation to the UPR, headed by Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca. During the debates, 12 Member States and Observer States of the Human Rights Council took the floor, and congratulate Timor-Leste for the progress made in the area of human rights. Delegations also pledged to support Timor-Leste in implementing the accepted recommendations.

A written statement from Provedoria de Direitos Humanos e Justiça was delivered by the representative of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, ICC. Representatives of the Civil Society also took the floor. While congratulating Timor-Leste for the achievement in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Country, representatives of civil society encouraged Timor-Leste to continue its efforts to further improve the human rights situation in the country. The Amnesty International expressed dissatisfaction for the delay in addressing cases of human rights abuses since 1975, alleging that none of the perpetrators of the crimes have been put to trial.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca thanks the delegations of Members and Observer States for their support and participation, and hopes to count on their assistance in the proves to implement the accepted recommendations. Ambassador Fonseca regrets that neither representatives of the Timorese Civil Society, nor that of the National Human Rights Institution was able to participate in the debates.

Report of the deliberation which resulted in the adoption of Timor-Leste's UPR Report will posted on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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