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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Timor-Leste

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fortieth session from 24 January to 11 February 2022. The review of Timor-Leste was held at the 8th meeting, on 27 January 2022. The delegation of Timor-Leste was headed by the Minister of Justice, Manuel Cárceres da Costa. At its 14th meeting, held on 1 February 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on Timor-Leste.
2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Timor-Leste: Brazil, Malawi and Malaysia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Timor-Leste:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Timor-Leste through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that, after 24 years of occupation, during which the country had witnessed numerous human rights violations, Timor-Leste had become a sovereign State, and was guided by democratic values and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens as enshrined in the country's Constitution. The delegation also stated that Timor-Leste was committed to promoting and protecting human rights effectively, and emphasized the crucial role that the universal periodic review played in achieving that goal.
6. Recommendations received in the past review cycles had allowed Timor-Leste to undertake action to fulfil its human rights obligations, for example through the adoption of national action plans on gender-based violence, on zero hunger, on women, peace and security, on the rights of the child and for persons with disabilities.
7. Timor-Leste had ratified seven core international human rights treaties; the delegation expressed the country's will to ratify other treaties at an opportune time, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The delegation also emphasized the country's commitment to analysing, in detail, the possibility of acceding to the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization.
8. The delegation highlighted successful measures aimed at responding to the growing challenges related to safeguarding and promoting human rights, including the establishment of an interministerial team to speed up the process of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative programme, public consultations held by the National Parliament on the draft law for the protection of children and adolescents at risk, the promotion of the representation of women

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/TLS/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/40/TLS/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/TLS/3](#).

in political decision-making bodies, the creation of shelters for victims of gender-based violence throughout the national territory, and the preparation of a legislative proposal on domestic work under the auspices of the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs.

9. Timor-Leste was conducting a reform of its legal framework and the judiciary in line with its Constitution, its national Strategic Development Plan (2011–2030) and the Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste (2011–2030). In that regard, the delegation highlighted the following new legislation initiatives: the decree on the statute of judicial magistrates; a draft law on the Public Prosecution Service; the statute for public defenders; the proposed law on the legal order for lawyers in Timor-Leste; and the law on judicial organization. The latter had led to the establishment of three first-instance courts – in Lautém, Ermera and Viqueque – and provided the basis for the establishment of the Supreme Court of Justice and the supreme administrative, tax and accounts court.

10. The Building Registration Code and the Civil Registration Code had been approved. The latter would allow citizens to regularize marriages regardless of their religious beliefs, to stipulate the matrimonial property regime, to register births, filiation and adoption and to regularize other situations regarding civil status where registration was mandatory but not yet regulated. In addition, the Land and Property Commission had been established pursuant to Decree-Law No. 5/2020. In 2017, Timor-Leste had approved Law No. 3/2017 on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and, pursuant to Decree-Law No. 9/2021, had established the national commission to combat trafficking in persons, which was in the process of drafting a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons.

11. The Government, in particular the Ministry of Justice, was committed to approving the following: the proposed law on religious freedom; the proposed law on public associations; the proposed tutelary and education law for minors; the draft special penal regime for minors; the proposed law on community protection zones and community property; the proposed decree-law that would set the criteria for calculating the rents for immovable property in the State's private domain; the proposed decree-law that would approve the procedure for the acquisition by national citizens of immovable property of foreign citizens that had been reverted to the State; and the proposed decree-law on land registration information.

12. Through the National Directorate of Human Rights and Citizenship, the Ministry of Justice had been carrying out activities to translate legislation, originally drafted in Portuguese, into Tetum in order to ensure that the legal framework was accessible to all citizens.

13. The Ministry of Justice would be carrying out the mandatory and free of charge registration of all children born in the territory of Timor-Leste. To that end, registration centres had been established at the national hospital, in the 12 municipalities and in the autonomous region of the country as a way to guarantee the immediate registration of newborns.

14. In order to ensure access to justice for the population living in remote areas, mobile courts had been established and continued to operate at full capacity, which had led to a decrease in the number of pending litigations in the courts. The Ministry of Justice had also invested in recruiting new officials for the judiciary, the Public Prosecution Service and the Public Defenders Office, and intended to strengthen the capacity of persons working in the justice sector. In addition, capacity-building activities were being promoted for registrars, notaries and magistrates in partnership with Portuguese institutions.

15. Timor-Leste was committed to protecting all citizens from violence and discrimination, especially on the grounds of their sexual orientation. In that regard, the delegation noted that, in accordance with article 52 of the Criminal Code, circumstances were considered to be aggravated if a crime was motivated by sexual orientation, resulting in heavier penalties. Despite not having a specific law on civil unions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, efforts had been made to increase knowledge and raise awareness among citizens to promote respect for and protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the country.

16. The delegation also stressed the country's efforts and commitment to meet the objectives of the universal periodic review, and reiterated the country's commitment to safeguard and promote fundamental rights at the national, regional and global levels. Timor-Leste had presented its candidacy to the Human Rights Council for 2024–2026. If elected, it would be the first time Timor-Leste would serve as a member of the Council. The delegation expressed its firm belief that Timor-Leste would be able to make a valuable contribution to the work of the Council, considering the country's rich history and its recent but vibrant democracy, and noting that it was a good example of the importance of multilateralism.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 77 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. Cyprus commended Timor-Leste for the progress made in strengthening the participation of women in political life and decision-making positions, as well as for the efforts made to combat and prevent trafficking in persons.

19. Denmark commended Timor-Leste for the many positive steps taken to implement the vast majority of recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle. Denmark also stated that significant improvements could still be achieved.

20. Djibouti welcomed efforts to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations and the adoption of the strategic development plan, the second action plan to combat gender-based violence (2017–2021) and the justice sector strategic plan (2011–2030).

21. The Dominican Republic encouraged Timor-Leste to continue efforts to improve its normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights.

22. Ecuador noted the adoption of the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities.

23. Egypt commended Timor-Leste for cooperation with human rights mechanisms and the adoption of the national plan to combat gender-based violence (2017–2021) and the strategic plan for the justice sector (2011–2030).

24. Fiji commended Timor-Leste for the development of national action plans on gender-based violence, on zero hunger, on women, peace and security, on the rights of the child, and for persons with disabilities.

25. Finland expressed great appreciation for the actions taken to strengthen democracy and rule of law, including the request for an election observation mission for the upcoming presidential elections, as well as cooperation with civil society.

26. France welcomed the country's efforts to promote and protect human rights, particularly with regard to children.

27. Georgia positively noted the adoption of the national action plan for children, and measures taken to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, reduce gender-based violence and protect the rights of women and girls.

28. Germany commended Timor-Leste for the significant progress made in enhancing women's participation in politics. Nonetheless, Germany remained concerned about gender-based violence.

29. Iceland welcomed the country's presentation of its national report.

30. India expressed appreciation for the adoption of the national action plan on gender-based violence (2017–2021), the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities (2021–2030), and the implementation of programmes such as Bolsa da Mãe.

31. Indonesia appreciated efforts to advance gender equality within the Government and noted the progress in several areas of human rights. Indonesia expressed its readiness to continue supporting the advancement of human rights in Timor-Leste.

32. Iraq expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Timor-Leste in preparing its national report and strengthening its various national mechanisms responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.
33. Ireland welcomed the adoption of the national action plan for children and the second national action plan on gender-based violence. Ireland encouraged Timor-Leste to ensure adequate protection for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
34. Italy praised Timor-Leste for its efforts to implement international human rights standards and welcomed the adoption of the national human rights action plans, as well as the steps taken to prevent and combat human trafficking.
35. Japan expressed appreciation for the positive steps taken by Timor-Leste to promote the right to health by strengthening the family health programme, particularly in rural areas. Japan also welcomed the drafting of a national action plan for persons with disabilities.
36. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the progress made in implementing universal periodic review recommendations, namely those related to strengthening the rights to education, food and health, as well as the principles of inclusivity and equal treatment for all people.
37. Libya commended Timor-Leste for the progress made within the framework of its national strategic plans and the effective steps it was taking in promoting and protecting human rights.
38. Luxembourg congratulated Timor-Leste for the adoption of the national action plan on gender-based violence and the action plan on women, peace and security, and encouraged Timor-Leste to continue with the preparation of overdue international reports.
39. Malaysia welcomed the positive steps taken in implementing previous universal periodic review recommendations through various policies of social assistance for persons with disabilities. It encouraged Timor-Leste to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
40. Maldives welcomed efforts in developing and implementing the national action plans on gender-based violence, on the rights of the child, for disabled persons, on zero hunger and on women, peace and security. It welcomed the incorporation of standards of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in the Criminal Code.
41. The Marshall Islands commended Timor-Leste for the promulgation of Law No. 7/2020 on measures to prevent and combat corruption. It also commended Timor-Leste for the national action plan for persons with disabilities and for efforts to end violence against women and girls, and urged Timor-Leste to take the measures necessary to further safeguard rights in those areas.
42. Mexico acknowledged the country's implementation of the school feeding programme and of the mobile registration programme, aimed at registering children up to the age of 5 living in rural and remote areas.
43. Mongolia noted with appreciation efforts made in implementing the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle.
44. Montenegro recognized the efforts made to protect rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities. It recognized that much of the laws remained gender-blind or non-compliant with international gender commitments, and that gender-based violence was one of the most pervasive and widespread human rights concerns in Timor-Leste.
45. Mozambique praised the efforts made that led to the implementation of most of the 154 previous universal periodic review recommendations, as well as the country's commitment to the protection of human rights in challenging times.
46. Namibia noted the measures taken to promote and protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It applauded the domestic measures taken to prevent and punish the most serious international crimes.

47. Nepal noted the launching of the Spotlight Initiative programme, with the aim of combating gender-based violence. It also expressed appreciation for the school feeding programme and efforts to enhance women's participation in political life.
48. The Netherlands noted that gender disparities remained. It also noted that limited budget allocation had hampered the implementation of the second national action plan on gender-based violence (2017–2021).
49. New Zealand made recommendations.
50. Oman appreciated the progress made in the process to ratify some international conventions, especially the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
51. Pakistan commended Timor-Leste for efforts in harmonizing national legislation with its international human rights obligations, despite resource constraints. It acknowledged efforts aimed at promoting the empowerment of women, countering gender-based violence, protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting the welfare of children.
52. Panama made recommendations.
53. Peru noted the adoption of the second national action plan on gender-based violence.
54. The Philippines welcomed the country's cooperation and engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. It welcomed its national development programmes aimed at improving the welfare of vulnerable groups, such as children.
55. Regarding the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the delegation of Timor-Leste noted that the country had been working on technical matters and preparing the conditions necessary to ratify the Convention during the current year. In that regard, the national action plan for persons with disabilities was being implemented, as were a policy on building infrastructure that was sensitive to persons with disabilities and a policy on social assistance for persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion was drafting a decree-law to create a national council for persons with disabilities, which would monitor the implementation of the national action plan for persons with disabilities (2021–2030).
56. In 2021, Decree-Law No. 9/2021 had been adopted, establishing the commission to combat trafficking in persons. The commission had prepared the respective action plan and would promote the training of police and immigration personnel on preventing and combating trafficking in persons. The Ministry of the Interior and the International Organization for Migration were also providing training on the subject matter to the officers at the National Police of Timor-Leste, including immigration service officers. In addition, magistrates of the Public Prosecution Service, agents of the Scientific Police for Criminal Investigation and the National Police of Timor-Leste were receiving training on combating trafficking in persons in the framework of a partnership between the Ministry of Justice, the United States Agency for International Development and the International Organization for Migration. The delegation affirmed the country's plan to review and amend Law No. 2/2009 with a view to ensuring that victims and witnesses of trafficking received due protection.
57. Concerning the amendment to the Criminal Code aimed at reinstating criminal defamation, the process was under way, but was not a priority for the Government at the moment. A draft law on cybercrime was to be debated by the relevant committee in the National Parliament. A draft law on the protection of children and adolescents was also being discussed by the relevant committee of the National Parliament. In 2021, the Government had created an institute to defend children's rights. The Civil Registration Code had already been approved by the Council of Ministers and was awaiting to be discussed by the National Parliament.
58. Climate change represented a severe threat to Timor-Leste, as an island country. Therefore, efforts had been made to adopt an environmental protection policy and to invest in awareness-raising campaigns and in the approval of mechanisms that would enable the reduction of carbon emission levels. In 2021, Timor-Leste had submitted a national adaptation plan to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

59. Timor-Leste had ratified the Rome Statute in 2002 and considered the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression relevant. Accordingly, Timor-Leste was considering ratifying the Amendments. Timor-Leste also considered the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime relevant and was considering its ratification.

60. The delegation acknowledged overcrowding in its prison system and stated that two new prisons were being built in the country, in Same and Baucau. Each prison was equipped with a clinic and health professionals, including a psychiatrist, who assisted prisoners, and prisoners were referred to the nearest hospital units when needed.

61. The delegation reiterated the country's commitment to protecting human rights without discrimination on any grounds, including in the recruitment and promotion of civil servants.

62. There was a need to create legislation that would properly provide for the right of people who professed religious beliefs other than Catholicism to marry, since the Civil Code recognized only three modalities of marriage: Catholic, civil, and customary monogamous marriage. The Ministry of Justice had drafted a new civil registration code, which would allow the regulation of all modalities of marriage and had already been submitted to the Council of Ministers. The draft decree-law on religious freedom had also been concluded, aimed at regulating freedom of religion, among other aspects. The directorate for registry and notary services, under the Ministry of Justice, ensured that all citizens, regardless of their faith and religion, could register to obtain a birth certificate.

63. Although Timor-Leste did not have a national action plan for human rights, several specific national action plans on human rights had been adopted.

64. Regarding excessive use of force by the police force, the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice had the mandate to receive complaints on the subject and to make the necessary recommendations to the competent entities, contributing to the monitoring and safeguarding of human rights. In addition, police forces had internal investigation mechanisms, which could result in administrative and criminal sanctions.

65. Timor-Leste had ratified six key International Labour Organization conventions, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). It had established the National Commission against Child Labour, which had presented a report on the situation of child labour in the country in 2021.

66. Education was recognized as a universal right in Timor-Leste, and access to it was free of charge at the elementary level. Efforts had been made to train more teachers in the country, and the number of teachers in rural areas was increasing.

67. The Ministry of Health had played a vital role in implementing the reproductive education programme in Timor-Leste, to assist in family planning, ensure due care for pregnant women until delivery, and provide counselling to couples regarding their sexual life before and after delivery. It had also adopted a policy on maternal care with a view to reducing infant and maternal mortality, which included the care provided to pregnant women until the moment of delivery.

68. Law No. 13/2017 on the special regime on the definition of ownership of real estate ensured equality between women and men regarding the ownership rights of immovable property. Article 4 of the law provided that the right to own immovable property was ensured in equal condition to both men and women, prohibiting any form of discrimination in ownership, access, management, administration, enjoyment, transfer or disposal of such property.

69. In response to questions on gender-based violence, the delegation highlighted that the Criminal Code penalized and punished sexual assault committed by a victim's relative as a crime with aggravating circumstances.

70. Article 2 (4) of the Constitution provided that the State recognized and valued the norms and customs of Timor-Leste that did not contradict the Constitution or legislation dealing specifically with customary law.
71. Poland noted with appreciation the steps undertaken by Timor-Leste to increase the political participation of citizens by making it possible for citizens living abroad to participate in elections.
72. Portugal welcomed the country's strong commitment to protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It expressed appreciation for the new legislation on combating corruption and trafficking and the creation of the Institute for the defence of children's rights.
73. The Republic of Korea commended Timor-Leste for legislative efforts, for improvements in women's representation in political and public life, and for providing an enabling environment for the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice and other human rights non-governmental organizations.
74. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the second action plan against gender-based violence, and the national plans for children and for persons with disabilities.
75. Serbia commended Timor-Leste for the measures taken to respond to the universal periodic review recommendations.
76. Slovenia welcomed the steps being taken in the enhancement of women's participation in politics and decision-making. It also welcomed the strengthening of the legislative and institutional frameworks and the construction of shelters for victims of gender-based violence.
77. South Sudan expressed appreciation for the adoption of the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities (2021–2030).
78. Spain welcomed the second national action plan against gender violence (2017–2021).
79. The State of Palestine welcomed ongoing efforts in improving education, including through the continuous implementation of the Education System Framework Law and the National Education Strategy Plan (2011–2030).
80. Switzerland commended Timor-Leste for the memorandum of understanding on the prevention of torture signed by the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice with the Association for the Prevention of Torture. With regard to education, it noted an increase in needs, due to a growing young population, but also the inadequacy of services and infrastructure. The quality of education would determine the capacity of young people to face their future.
81. The Syrian Arabic Republic welcomed efforts to provide protection for children who were victims of abuse, discrimination, exploitation, neglect or violence and for children in conflict with the law, and also welcomed the national action plan for children (2016–2020).
82. Thailand commended Timor-Leste for efforts in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities and stated that it looked forward to the establishment of a national council for persons with disabilities. It also recognized the country's commitment to tackling gender-based violence through the adoption of the second national action plan on gender-based violence and the establishment of shelters.
83. Ukraine expressed concern about the reported excessive use of force and ill-treatment by security forces in the context of the implementation of restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
84. The United Kingdom commended Timor-Leste for the progress made on reparations, including the establishment of the national Chega! centre, and for approving legislation against corruption and trafficking in persons.
85. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Timor-Leste for the measures taken to improve the living conditions of its people, and for the implementation of the national action plan to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

86. The United States was encouraged by the approval of anti-corruption legislation. It expressed concerns about the prevalence of sexual violence, delayed investigations or prosecutions of sexual abuse cases, and the draft digital security law that could be open to misuse or misinterpretation.
87. Uruguay noted the country's commitment to transforming the existing commission on the rights of the child into the institute for the defence of children's rights, and encouraged Timor-Leste to allocate the resources necessary for the institute to perform its functions.
88. Vanuatu noted the country's ongoing significant social and economic development and the strengthened democratic participation of all citizens in the affairs of the nation.
89. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the national action plan to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, implemented to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to food security through, inter alia, the school feeding programme, which provided meals to primary school students across the country. It also commended Timor-Leste for efforts to guarantee a universal and free health system, and for the active participation of women in political life.
90. Viet Nam commended Timor-Leste for its strong commitment to socioeconomic development for the better enjoyment of human rights by its people.
91. Afghanistan commended Timor-Leste for the efforts towards equal representation, and for cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms.
92. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities (2021–2030) and efforts to increase employment opportunities, including through skills training and partnerships with the private sector.
93. Angola commended Timor-Leste for its resilience in responding to challenges related to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the consequences of climate change for the Timorese population.
94. Argentina welcomed the development of human rights plans and expressed hope that Timor-Leste could make progress in their implementation. It also noted measures to address impunity and the outstanding challenges in that regard.
95. Armenia welcomed the approval of the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities.
96. Australia welcomed the adoption of the anti-human trafficking law, the national action plan for people with disabilities, and the progress made in implementing the national action plan on gender-based violence.
97. Azerbaijan positively noted the measures on the promotion and protection of human rights in various fields, in particular those related to the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle.
98. The Bahamas positively acknowledged the implementation of national plans of action to protect and promote the rights of children, to combat gender-based violence, and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.
99. Belgium welcomed the adoption and implementation of the national action plans on gender-based violence and on children's rights. It stressed that additional progress could have been achieved in those areas.
100. Botswana welcomed the efforts made to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children.
101. Brazil expressed concern about reports that customary justice practices could entail physical punishments, and urged Timor-Leste to bring such practices into compliance with international human rights law.
102. Brunei Darussalam commended Timor-Leste for its free universal health service system, which guaranteed the fundamental right of citizens to health as set out in the Constitution and the legislation.

103. Bulgaria acknowledged the continuous efforts made by Timor-Leste to provide further training to teachers, and to build and rehabilitate schools as a step towards the creation of a good education system.
104. Cabo Verde welcomed the legislation adopted and measures taken to counter human rights violations against women and girls, to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in schools, and to promote the social participation of women and girls.
105. Canada welcomed the democratic values that Timor-Leste continued to uphold, and stated that it looked forward to another successful, free and fair election in 2022.
106. Chile highlighted the country's progress in strengthening democracy and the rule of law.
107. China commended Timor-Leste for efforts in reducing poverty, developing education and health, and committing to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.
108. Cuba expressed pride that the Cuban literacy method "Yo sí puedo" had contributed to advances in the fight against illiteracy in Timor-Leste.
109. Lebanon welcomed the adoption of the second phase of the national action plan for persons with disabilities, as well as the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice.
110. The Niger noted the measures taken by Timor-Leste to guarantee the rights of persons in a vulnerable situation, including young people and persons with disabilities, and welcomed the adoption of the second phase of the national plan for persons with disabilities.
111. In response to questions submitted by Member States, the delegation of Timor-Leste stated that Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Justice and the Commission on the Rights of the Child, was committed to promoting awareness to prevent and abolish early child marriage. Timor-Leste had also adopted a zero tolerance policy for corporal punishment in schools.
112. The constitution of Timor-Leste provided that human life was inviolable, and that voluntary abortion was considered to be a crime in the country.
113. Regarding birth registration, the directorate general for registry and notary services of the Ministry of Justice had established offices in all municipalities and in the autonomous region of Oecusse with a view to facilitating birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates. Timor-Leste also had a policy for implementing mobile registration in remote areas.
114. The delegation expressed the deep respect and appreciation Timor-Leste had for the work carried out by the universal periodic review mechanism. It also expressed the hope that the country would be able to continue relying on the experience and assistance of the United Nations system to promote human rights in Timor-Leste.
115. The delegation concluded by stating that Timor-Leste would examine all recommendations received and provide a response on its positions thereon in a timely manner. The delegation expressed its appreciation for the review, whose contribution was considered fundamental for the improvement of the strategy that guided the promotion and protection of human rights in Timor-Leste.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

116. **The following recommendations will be examined by Timor-Leste, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council.**

- 116.1 **Consider ratifying international instruments to which Timor-Leste is not yet a party, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Djibouti);**

- 116.2 Continue to adhere to more international human rights conventions (State of Palestine);
- 116.3 Continue its efforts to ratify international human rights instruments that guarantee citizen's rights and impose the necessary penalties on violators (Libya);
- 116.4 Bolster the framework of guarantees for protection through the ratification of pending international human rights, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Dominican Republic);
- 116.5 Ratify the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Cyprus) (Denmark);
- 116.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cyprus);
- 116.7 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Peru);
- 116.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Lebanon) (Finland) (Luxembourg);
- 116.9 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and implement them in domestic law (Ukraine);
- 116.10 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 116.11 Move towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);
- 116.12 Consider adhering to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);
- 116.13 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq) (Luxembourg) (Vanuatu) (Japan) (Ecuador) (Mexico) (France);
- 116.14 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance, in accordance with the will expressed by the Government (Spain);
- 116.15 Proceed with the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Georgia);
- 116.16 Consider ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (India); Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Nepal) (Senegal);
- 116.17 Pursue efforts towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Marshall Islands);
- 116.18 Complete the process of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);
- 116.19 Continue making efforts towards ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan); Continue work towards

ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as previously recommended (Slovenia);

116.20 Accelerate its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to effectively address the needs of persons with disabilities (Thailand);

116.21 Accelerate efforts to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, consistent with commitments under previous universal periodic reviews, including establishing a national council on disability (Australia);

116.22 Sustain the course of reforms towards the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bulgaria);

116.23 Redouble efforts to finalize the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Niger);

116.24 Reinforce the rights of persons with disabilities by adopting and funding a national plan for persons with disabilities, improving data collection relating to persons with disabilities, and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);

116.25 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt) (Luxembourg) (Vanuatu) (France) (Japan) (Ecuador) (Mexico) (Iraq) (Ireland) (Mozambique) (Namibia) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Afghanistan) (Armenia) (Bahamas);

116.26 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Italy);

116.27 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure that the national action plan for disabled persons aligns with the Convention accordingly (Maldives);

116.28 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and implement it in the domestic legislation (Mongolia);

116.29 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and incorporate it into domestic law (Germany);

116.30 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while noting the positive steps towards the protection of persons with disabilities (Finland);

116.31 Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);

116.32 Improve the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities as well as their access to health-care, education and justice by, among others, concluding the processes of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and approval of the national plan for persons with disabilities for the period 2021–2030 (Poland);

116.33 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

116.34 Prioritize the human rights of persons with disabilities and expedite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Republic of Korea);

116.35 Conclude preparatory consultations with a view to ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);

116.36 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);

- 116.37 Seek assistance from the United Nations and donors with a view to increasing the institutional capacity to better implement the ratified international instruments (Maldives);
- 116.38 Enhance cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies (Azerbaijan);
- 116.39 Submit all overdue reports to treaty bodies as soon as possible (Ukraine);
- 116.40 Continue its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its special procedures (Pakistan);
- 116.41 Consider extending a standing invitation to the United Nations special procedures and fully cooperating with them (Argentina);
- 116.42 Extend an open invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ecuador);
- 116.43 Extend a standing invitation to the United Nations special procedure mandate holders and fully cooperate with them (Ukraine);
- 116.44 Amend its Constitution to include sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status as prohibited grounds of discrimination (Mexico);
- 116.45 Sustain efforts aimed at strengthening the national human rights framework (Pakistan);
- 116.46 Continue to implement human rights training programmes to contribute to national capacity-building for better protection of human rights (Azerbaijan);
- 116.47 Take steps in providing capacity-building programmes, including targeted training for law enforcement officials (Malaysia);
- 116.48 Consider adopting a national human rights action plan (Lebanon);
- 116.49 Consider adopting an integrated national human rights action plan for coordination of the implementation of its various thematic national action plans in the country (Malaysia);
- 116.50 Pursue efforts to develop and adopt a national action plan on human rights (Peru);
- 116.51 Draft and adopt a national action plan on human rights (Luxembourg);
- 116.52 Develop a national action plan for the protection and promotion of human rights (Namibia);
- 116.53 Adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (Iceland);
- 116.54 Promote the rights of LGBTIQI+ persons with protective legislative frameworks that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);
- 116.55 Adopt policies and measures to encourage and enhance meaningful participation of LGBTIQI persons in decision-making and leadership at national and subnational levels (Netherlands);
- 116.56 Implement concrete measures aimed at promoting equal rights before the law for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Dominican Republic);
- 116.57 Develop and adopt legal and administrative measures to investigate acts of discrimination, stigmatization and violence against persons based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics

and ensure that people can effectively access remedies when their rights are violated (Argentina);

116.58 Recognize and permit same-sex marriage, develop legal measures to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensure that appropriate gender-awareness training is offered in all ministries and law enforcement (Canada);

116.59 Strengthen efforts to guarantee the participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities when developing and implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction policies (Fiji);

116.60 Integrate a rights-based approach in climate mitigation policy and disaster risk reduction plans (Cyprus);

116.61 Implement policies to prevent and combat climate change and natural disaster risk reduction, as well as continue to advocate for global action to conserve the environment (Vanuatu);

116.62 Implement efficient adoption and disaster risk reduction measures aimed to adequately protect people from the impacts of climate crisis (Mongolia);

116.63 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and redouble the efforts to reduce poverty so as to improve people's living standards (China);

116.64 Effectively implement the newly established national action plans by strengthening advocacy for raising awareness and ensuring access thereto by the most vulnerable populations, including those residing in rural areas (Republic of Korea);

116.65 Bring the definition of torture established in article 167 of the Criminal Code into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ensure that this crime is properly sanctioned (Mexico);

116.66 Develop a national road map for the prevention of torture (Switzerland);

116.67 Continue efforts to prevent abuse perpetrated by law enforcement officers as they perform their duties, so as to keep order while respecting human rights (Chile);

116.68 Strengthen the prosecutorial efforts of the anticorruption commission and increase its independence from government control (United States of America);

116.69 Continue to strengthening the justice system so as to improve one of the most important pillars of a democratic constitutional State (Cabo Verde);

116.70 Continue the capacity-building efforts in the field of justice and the judiciary (Oman);

116.71 Pursue justice sector reform, developing judicial institutions and improving access to justice for victims (France);

116.72 Adopt the necessary measures to continue to reduce the length of proceedings before the courts (Angola);

116.73 Continue to improve the capacities of law enforcement officers and the judiciary to promote access to justice for all (Indonesia);

116.74 Ensure the wide public dissemination and full and effective implementation of the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Truth and Friendship Commission regarding victims' rights to justice, truth and reparation (Montenegro);

- 116.75 Ensure that the proposed criminal defamation law, cybercrime law, and data privacy and protection law do not unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression, both online and offline (Canada);
- 116.76 Refrain from passing new laws that could unduly restrict freedoms of expression or association (United States of America);
- 116.77 Revise the media law to ensure that it is in line with international standards and best practices related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression (Uruguay);
- 116.78 Continue to guarantee freedom of expression (France);
- 116.79 Ensure a safe, secure and enabling environment, in law and in practice, for human rights defenders and journalists to carry out their work without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisals (Uruguay);
- 116.80 Set up measures to provide legislative and programmatic safeguards to protect children from discrimination, child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, sexual trafficking and exploitation (Botswana);
- 116.81 Continue to work on strengthening national mechanisms for combating human trafficking and providing support to the victims (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 116.82 Provide adequate training and resources for all relevant front-line officials so they can effectively identify victims of human trafficking and offer victims appropriate assistance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 116.83 Continue its efforts to provide education and training opportunities to strengthen the capacity of Timor-Leste workers, particularly young people and the unemployed (Algeria);
- 116.84 Continue strengthening its sound social policies in favour of its people, with emphasis on the most vulnerable (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 116.85 Ensure adequate funding in the national budget to provide food security, safe water and health care, including for people living in rural areas and in line with national plans and initiatives (Bahamas);
- 116.86 Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources for social protection programmes targeting different vulnerable groups (Philippines);
- 116.87 Continue its efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition while improving the people's standard of living (Nepal);
- 116.88 Continue to implement national strategies and plans for the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition (Cuba);
- 116.89 Intensify the fight against malnutrition and stunting of children, especially during infancy and early childhood, by focusing on the support and education of persons and groups in vulnerable situations (Germany);
- 116.90 Redouble efforts towards ensuring access to clean drinking water and sanitation to the entire population (Brazil);
- 116.91 Increase access to drinking water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas (Vanuatu);
- 116.92 Continue to work towards improving access to health-care facilities and services in rural areas (Brunei Darussalam);
- 116.93 Develop actions to further expand access to quality health-care services, particularly in rural and remote areas (Cuba);
- 116.94 Continue efforts to ensure equal access to quality health services throughout the country in both urban and rural areas (Djibouti);

116.95 **Redouble efforts in ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to health, in particular by strengthening health-care services to reduce maternal mortality; by broadening access to immunization, especially for the population living in remote rural areas; and by improving child nutrition (Armenia);**

116.96 **Step up efforts to improve national health-care services and infrastructure, and capacities of health-care staff, through bilateral and regional cooperation, to ensure access to health care and reduce stunting, particularly in rural areas (Indonesia);**

116.97 **Ensure that women, children, rural communities and those in vulnerable situations are prioritized in Timor-Leste's COVID-19 economic recovery measures, including better access to health care, education and adequate income (Australia);**

116.98 **Take further steps to promote the enjoyment of human rights by vulnerable groups, especially in elaborating and implementing a national plan for inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (Viet Nam);**

116.99 **Increase the coverage of and accessibility to health-care services, particularly to ensure access to health care and sexual and reproductive rights for the population living in remote areas (Luxembourg);**

116.100 **Take measures to strengthen the public health system, including by increasing the availability of sexual and reproductive health information and services, as well as mental health services, adapted to the needs of young people (Uruguay);**

116.101 **Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to strengthen national HIV programming and prevention policies that encompass the active promotion of condom use, beyond key population groups and with an emphasis on youth, coupled with awareness-raising on evidence-based HIV-prevention information for the general population (Panama);**

116.102 **Increase the availability of non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health information and services tailored to the needs of young people, including on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and increase access to modern methods of family planning (Portugal);**

116.103 **Increase the availability of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and information, including on HIV, sexually transmitted infections and access to family planning services (Netherlands);**

116.104 **Decriminalize abortion and increase the accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services in remote areas (Iceland);**

116.105 **Decriminalize the voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape, incest or severe fetal impairment (Mexico);**

116.106 **Promote in the shortest time possible a reform of the Criminal Code, in order to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest and serious malformation of the fetus (Spain);**

116.107 **Continue implementing its national education strategy plan for 2011–2030 to ensure full and inclusive access to education by all citizens (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

116.108 **Increase the percentage of the national budget dedicated to education in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Switzerland);**

116.109 **Ensure the right to education for all children by removing the existing disparities in access to education between urban and rural areas (Lebanon);**

116.110 **Maintain efforts for, and the development of, educational initiatives to extend the reach of literacy programmes and the continuity of education for children and adults (Cuba);**

- 116.111 **Improve the infrastructure of schools in remote areas to ensure access to education for all (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 116.112 **Continue its efforts with regard to education, adopt policies to enhance access for children from urban and rural areas, and ensure inclusion in education for girls and children with disabilities (State of Palestine);**
- 116.113 **Pursue efforts to guarantee access to education for all segments of the population throughout the country (Senegal);**
- 116.114 **Improve school infrastructure with a view to achieving higher enrolment in rural areas and in secondary education (Poland);**
- 116.115 **Promote education for children and young people by improving education accessibility and attendance for rural areas, increasing investment, and taking further steps to eradicate corporal punishment in schools (New Zealand);**
- 116.116 **Guarantee access to drinking water and sanitation in rural areas, especially in school settings, to prevent school dropout, especially among girls (Spain);**
- 116.117 **Increase investment in the necessary human, technical and financial resources to strengthen and improve the education system and infrastructure, and provide human rights training to teachers (Fiji);**
- 116.118 **Continue developing a policy of providing training to teachers through the National Institute for Training of Teachers and Education Professionals (South Sudan);**
- 116.119 **Continue consolidating achievements in the promotion of women's rights and well-being, through the national policy and action plan on gender equality (Dominican Republic);**
- 116.120 **Promote gender equality and better protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children (China);**
- 116.121 **Keep up efforts to increase women's participation at the national, regional and local levels (Bulgaria);**
- 116.122 **Take measures to increase the percentage of women within formal work arrangements and enhance women's access to and control over productive resources and assets (Germany);**
- 116.123 **Continue to adopt specific measures to increase the participation of women in political decision-making positions (Angola);**
- 116.124 **Continue to strengthen the important role of women in the public service of the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 116.125 **Increase opportunities for women and strengthen women's capacity in participating equally in supply chains and markets, and enhance women's access to and control over productive resources and assets (Slovenia);**
- 116.126 **Step up efforts in preventing and addressing all forms of violence against women and children, including through public awareness campaigns and capacity-building for duty bearers (Philippines);**
- 116.127 **Continue working on strengthening the legal framework and adoption of effective measures to address gender-based violence (Georgia);**
- 116.128 **Implement additional measures to reduce all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and support victims and survivors of violence (Australia);**
- 116.129 **Consider further measures to promote gender equality and end gender-based violence, including access to safe reproductive health services (India);**

116.130 **Redouble efforts to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality, including through public-awareness programmes (France);**

116.131 **Strengthen efforts to address violence against women, against children and against all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including measures to prevent violence and support survivors, as well as by removing obstacles that prevent access to justice (Fiji);**

116.132 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence, in particular violence against women and girls (Mozambique);**

116.133 **Intensify its efforts in addressing gender-based violence and ensure that victims of gender-based violence receive adequate support and services (Thailand);**

116.134 **Fully implement and adhere to the national action plan against gender-based violence, including committing the required financial resources to provide core services for victims and strengthening legal institutions in order to ensure appropriate prosecution of cases of violence against women and girls (Canada);**

116.135 **Work with civil society and local authorities to address gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and appropriate sufficient funds for the national police's vulnerable persons unit (United States of America);**

116.136 **Continue efforts to address violence against women and girls, including by strengthening the knowledge and availability of comprehensive essential services for survivors and by strengthening the capacities of police and legal practitioners in working with and providing support to survivors (Germany);**

116.137 **Allocate sufficient resources to tackle the issue of gender-based violence, to enable the delivery of gender-based violence commitments, including responding to gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring the provision of core services to victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

116.138 **Ensure that all criminal complaints of violence against women and girls are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted in accordance with the law (Iceland);**

116.139 **Ensure that all cases of gender-based and domestic violence are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished (Belgium);**

116.140 **Promote the strengthening of mechanisms for reporting, investigation, prosecution, sentencing and convictions for gender-based violence, in particular regarding cases of domestic violence (Chile);**

116.141 **Take further steps to address gender-based violence by, inter alia, ensuring that criminal complaints of violence against women and girls are thoroughly investigated (Ukraine);**

116.142 **Strengthen the fight against gender-based violence by providing sufficient resources to prosecute perpetrators, as well as guarantee the rights of victims, making positive law prevail over customary law. A new plan, provided with due budget support and followed by the corresponding reforms, is the right way forward (Spain);**

116.143 **Take measures to ease access to justice, including for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Cyprus);**

116.144 **Provide more protection for victims of domestic violence (Oman);**

116.145 **Relaunch the initiative to create a trust fund that would enable international financing of compensation to the victims of gender-based violence,**

and their children, who have not received adequate assistance from the State (Ecuador);

116.146 Provide universal access to quality services for survivors of gender-based violence, particularly in rural areas (Iceland);

116.147 Increase the availability of essential services for survivors of gender-based violence, such as women's shelters and medical and psychosocial support, particularly in rural areas (Belgium);

116.148 Adopt legislation to criminalize marital rape and incest (Ireland);

116.149 Strengthen efforts to eliminate domestic violence through legislation and increase awareness-raising programmes (Indonesia);

116.150 Strengthen the ongoing efforts to prevent and combat violence and abuses against women and girls, including domestic violence and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage (Italy);

116.151 Continue to strengthen measures to combat gender-based violence against women and girls, including intimate partner violence, and enhance support to the victims of gender-based violence (Japan);

116.152 Criminalize marital rape and incest as distinct crimes (Luxembourg);

116.153 Continue efforts to address violence against women and girls, including by ensuring access to justice through judicial and institutional training on gender-based violence awareness and responses (Malaysia);

116.154 Address issues of gender inequality by implementing policies and practices to reduce domestic violence and other discrimination against women and girls (New Zealand);

116.155 Continue to implement the policy relating to the child protection system (Niger);

116.156 Bring birth registration services closer to beneficiaries, especially in rural areas, while making the administrative process more effective and less costly (Serbia);

116.157 Enact comprehensive legislation on children's rights (Afghanistan);

116.158 Intensify efforts to address the obstacles faced by the Commission on the Rights of the Child in terms of insufficient human and financial resources (Syrian Arab Republic);

116.159 Take all necessary measures to combat the challenges facing the committees concerned with children's rights and provide them with human and financial resources (Libya);

116.160 Adopt and effectively implement a national action plan on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (Belgium);

116.161 Pursue efforts to combat all forms of violence, labour exploitation, abuse and neglect of children (France);

116.162 Speed up measures to reduce exploitation of and discrimination against children and adolescents in rural areas in order to combat and eradicate child labour in agricultural activities (Chile);

116.163 Take measures to combat the high levels of physical and emotional violence against children in both home and educational settings, and consider developing specialized public services to support child and adolescent survivors of abuse (Peru);

116.164 Strengthen child protection by improving access to secondary education, particularly for girls, and strengthen labour laws by including a list of prohibited hazardous work and increasing protections for children working in rural and family-owned farms and businesses (Canada);

- 116.165 Adopt policies within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes, harmful practices such as bride price (*barlake*), child and/or forced marriage and polygamy (Argentina);
- 116.166 Take additional measures to prevent and abolish early marriage throughout the country (Cabo Verde);
- 116.167 Take effective measures and continue awareness-raising campaigns to address cases of early marriage (Azerbaijan);
- 116.168 Reinforce measures aiming to eliminate early marriage (Mozambique);
- 116.169 Consider the complete abolition of child marriage by setting the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls at 18 years of age, without exception (Marshall Islands);
- 116.170 Intensify efforts to raise public awareness about the consequences of early marriage with a view to reducing their occurrence, and consider increasing the legal age of marriage to 18 years (Poland);
- 116.171 Continue with progressive policy and legislative measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, such as for the criminalization of child marriage and the development of a comprehensive juvenile justice system (India);
- 116.172 Continue efforts to combat child marriage in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Egypt);
- 116.173 Expedite steps to develop a holistic juvenile justice system (Ukraine);
- 116.174 Adopt all necessary measures to guarantee access to sufficient, sustainable, long-lasting and safe food and nutrition for children to reverse the high rate of delayed development of children, especially those under 5 years of age (Spain);
- 116.175 Redouble efforts in improving child nutrition and food security (Philippines);
- 116.176 Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, and ensure that gender equality and the rights of members of marginalized groups receive adequate consideration in all climate and just-transition policies, and that people can participate in decisions affecting them (Panama);
- 116.177 Explicitly and legally prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and take the measures necessary to prevent such punishment (Montenegro);
- 116.178 Intensify efforts to fully eradicate corporal punishment against children in the home, at school and in alternative care and day-care settings by explicitly prohibiting it in national legislation (Marshall Islands);
- 116.179 Adopt measures to promote the full enjoyment of the rights of children and prohibit all forms of corporal punishment (Italy);
- 116.180 Strengthen measures that specifically prohibit corporal punishment of children (Dominican Republic);
- 116.181 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children and take concrete steps to ensure that all children, including girls, have access to education and to reduce high rates of child malnutrition and teenage pregnancy (Portugal);
- 116.182 Establish a national council for persons with disabilities to provide advice to and support the relevant ministries with responsibility for issues affecting persons with disabilities (Ireland);
- 116.183 Continue developing a national legal framework and strategies for the promotion and protection of the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups,

including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

116.184 Continue its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups have access to all areas of political and economic life and ensure their access to basic public services (Libya);

116.185 Redouble efforts to finalize the draft law for a national council for persons with disabilities, and to strengthen the national action plan for persons with disabilities (South Sudan);

116.186 Integrate women's rights into legislation comprehensively and pay particular attention to the protection of the rights of women and girls living with disabilities (Vanuatu);

116.187 Enhance efforts, including by allocating more resources, to implement the national action plan for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities for 2021–2030, guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Viet Nam);

116.188 Pursue its efforts to implement a national council for persons with disabilities in order to strengthen the national action plan for persons with disabilities (Algeria);

116.189 Investigate the reports of violence against women and children with disabilities, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);

116.190 Continue to promote inclusive education so that persons with special needs continue to enjoy the same privileges in schools (Brunei Darussalam);

116.191 Continue its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of national policies relating to persons with disabilities, including access to education, access to public services, and employment opportunities (Algeria);

116.192 Protect the right to education for all persons with disabilities (Mongolia);

116.193 Consider adopting programmes aimed at protecting and revitalizing indigenous languages that are at risk of disappearing (Peru);

116.194 Ensure compliance with non-refoulement principles by ensuring that all asylum seekers are given access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, including access to relevant information, interpretation and legal services (Afghanistan).

117. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Timor-Leste was headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Manuel Cárceres da Costa, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Lurdes Bessa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Flaviano Moniz Leão, National Director for Human Rights and Citizenship;
 - Mr. Nelinho Vital, National Director for Legal Advisory and Legislation;
 - Ms. Filomena Duarte, Legal Adviser;
 - Ms. Leonilde Fernandes, Secretary;
 - Mr. Aurélio Barros, Human Rights Policy Officer;
 - Ms. Ralyana Ribeiro, First Secretary;
 - Ms. Joana Santos, Legal Adviser.
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