



AI Index: ASA 57/5769/2022
30 June 2022

-Check against delivery-

ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Timor-Leste

UN Human Rights Council
50th session
13 June – 8 July 2022

Mr President,

We welcome Timor-Leste's acceptance of the majority of recommendations, including its commitment to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Cruel Treatment without reservations.

Mr. President,

We urge Timor-Leste to do more towards ending gender-based violence, including by ensuring that journalists and survivors are free to speak out without reprisals.¹ Witnesses and survivors in all cases of violence against women and girls must have their complaints duly investigated, have access to justice and the right to a remedy.²

Laws that hinder access to safe and legal abortion must be repealed.³ Anti-discrimination laws are needed to ensure equality for people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Same sex relationships must be recognized in laws and policies to ensure that people are not left behind in household relief as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic or natural disasters.⁴

Mr. President,

As a small island state, Timor-Leste is at high risk of the climate crisis affecting people's

¹ In the case of a well-known priest who was convicted of child sex offences in December 2021, both survivors and journalists reported receiving threats for speaking publicly about the case. See Amnesty International Submission to the Universal Periodic Review: Timor Leste, at para 10 and 14, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/TL-stakeholders-info-s40>. This case was not specifically acknowledged or noted in the Timor-Leste response, although there were commitments to uphold freedom of expression in new laws and in line with its Constitution.

² See Recommendations 116.126-116.154 on strengthening protections to end violence against women and girls, available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/300/89/PDF/G2230089.pdf?OpenElement>. These recommendations were mostly supported by Timor-Leste in its adoption statement, including a commitment to pay more attention to ending domestic violence. In relation to recommendations on ending early marriage, Timor-Leste did not support recommendations, claiming this did not fit the local context.

³ See Recommendations 11.104-116.106 which recommended decriminalization of abortion, available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/300/89/PDF/G2230089.pdf?OpenElement>. Timor-Leste noted these recommendations and said they were in contradiction with existing national laws.

⁴ See Recommendation 116.53-116.58, which called for the recognition of marriage equality, protection from discrimination and equality for LGBTI people, available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/300/89/PDF/G2230089.pdf?OpenElement>. Timor-Leste accepted recommendations on strengthening non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but when it came to marriage equality and recognition of same sex relationships, only noted these recommendations and stated they are inconsistent with existing national laws.

livelihoods and human rights. Clear and measurable targets are needed to phase out reliance on fossil fuels and ensure just transition to renewable energy.⁵

Finally, we urge Timor-Leste to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of recommendations to the Human Rights Council and to use an Item 6 General Debate to draw it to the attention of Member States.

Thank you.

⁵ See Recommendations 116.59-116.62 which called for a human rights-based approach to tackling the climate crisis, available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/300/89/PDF/G2230089.pdf?OpenElement>. No clear calls or commitments were made in terms of specifying clear and measurable reduction targets or to move away from reliance of fossil fuels, although more general recommendations on the right to a healthy environment were accepted by Timor-Leste.