



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fortieth session
24 January–4 February 2022

Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Timor-Leste*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 14 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) recommended that Timor-Leste ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.²

3. PDHJ stated there were lot of important laws that were still pending, including a law on Children's Rights. The revision for provisions of the civil code on discriminatory issues such as article 1494 (Internuptial waiting period), recognition of non-Catholic marriages and "de facto unions", were still pending.³

4. PDHJ recommended that Timor-Leste take measures to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQI through advocacy and dissemination.⁴

5. PDHJ stated that prison facilities for inmates and guards were not adequate, not complying with international human rights standards. Prison guards lacked adequate training and career development and sufficient resources to carry out their job properly.⁵

6. While noting the introduction by the Government in 2020 for consultation of a draft legislation aimed to criminalize defamation, PDHJ recommended that the Government should refrain from approving any such legislation that would violate the Constitution and international human rights treaties limiting freedom of expression.⁶

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



7. With regard to access to clean water, PDHJ noted that there were lack of budget allocation for water system maintenance, lack of appropriate control from public services, and lack of community awareness on conservation of water sources.⁷

8. PDHJ recognized the efforts made by the Government, through the Ministry of Health in cooperation with development partner, NGOs and community groups, to disseminate information to the communities on special duty to improve public health, through prevention care in nutrition area, immunization, reproductive health, mental health, environmental health including COVID-19 prevention. It also noted: lack of transport to facilitate the activities of dissemination of information; and lack of human resources and awareness of the community on implementing rules of COVID-19 preventions.⁸

9. PDHJ noted that the implementation of national school feeding programme in the field had not followed school feeding guidelines established, and that most school had insufficient facilities with poor quality of ingredients for preparing school meals, and no adequate storage facility to keep the food, providing meals to the students only 3 or 4 day per week, not according to the school calendar.⁹

10. PDHJ noted that women's inheritance rights and rights to property and land upon divorce remained an issue, due to the patrilineal systems that dominated in traditional law that ensured in most parts of the country only men inherited/possessed the land and property of the family or couple. Lack of marriage registration in public register also contributed to the perpetuation of the patriarchal system.¹⁰

11. PDHJ highlighted that the formal judicial process did not provide for an accessible, fast and coherent result that ensured victims of domestic violence safety and livelihood. This caused those victims to turn to traditional justice mechanisms and remedies that might not integrate a human rights perspective.¹¹

12. PDHJ noted that teachers continued to implement corporal punishment as a way of educating students to respect and focus during the learning process, despite it being a criminal offence under the Penal Code.¹²

13. PDHJ recommended that Timor-Leste should: prioritize the creation of a minor educative centre and aid with the reintegration process of minors back into the community; give access to "online educational courses" for minors currently in detention; and ensure that actors of the justice sector that engage with juvenile offenders have full knowledge of juvenile rights.¹³

14. PDHJ recommended that the Government prioritize the presentation of the National Action Plan (2020-2030) for Persons with Disabilities in the Council of Ministers for approval, as well as allocate adequate budget for its implementation.¹⁴

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations¹⁵ and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies¹⁶

15. Amnesty International (AI) stated that Timor-Leste was yet to fulfil its commitments to ratify additional human rights treaties made at the last review such as the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the ILO Domestic Worker's Convention 2011 (No.189).¹⁷

16. Centre for Global Nonkilling recommended that Timor-Leste ratify the Convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.¹⁸

17. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons recommended that Timor-Leste ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.¹⁹

18. AI recommended that Timor-Leste fulfil its existing obligations for treaty body reporting as a priority and ensure that future reports are submitted in a timely manner with appropriate civil society engagement and consultation.²⁰

19. AI also recommended that Timor-Leste issue a standing invitation to the United Nations Special Procedures and fully co-operate with all communications from them.²¹ Joint Submission 2 (JS2) also recommended that Timor-Leste facilitate official visits by special procedure mandates holders and prioritize visits by the Special Rapporteurs: on the situation of human rights defenders; on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression; and on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.²²

B. National human rights framework²³

20. Joint Submission 4 (JS4) stated that the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ)'s resources were inadequate for the scale of the work it had to undertake. It required more investigators and facilities.²⁴ JS4 recommended that Timor-Leste ensure adequate funding of the PDHJ. The PDHJ itself should improve procedures to ensure that its work is sufficiently expansive, expeditious and independent.²⁵

21. AI highlighted that in 2020, the PDHJ received complaints related to Covid-19 emergency regulations and investigated 51 human rights complaints relating to the military, police, teachers and public servants.²⁶

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

22. AI stated that the Government had failed to comprehensively implement laws, policies and practices, including awareness training, to improve non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics. The Ministries were yet to implement comprehensive training to ensure sensitivity to issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics. The Ministry of Health should actively engage with the community to ensure the right to health is protected and respected without discrimination.²⁷

23. Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation (KAHRF) stated that while Timor-Leste had taken substantial steps in recent years to protect the rights of LGBTI+ individuals, further work was required in order to safeguard members of the LGBTI+ community from entrenched community violence and discrimination. Despite announcing an intention to engage in legislative reform in 2017, Timor-Leste had not substantially altered its laws relating to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. Bias based on gender identity and intersex status continued to not be treated as an aggravating factor in sentencing.²⁸

24. JS4 emphasized that ignorance and negative attitudes about LGBTIQI people remained pervasive. They were reportedly being subject to stigmatization, including physical and sexual violence, sometimes by their own families.²⁹

25. AI noted that same sex unions and marriages were not recognized. One of the important impacts of the lack of recognition of same sex relationships (who were not considered a household unit), was that they had been left out of food and monetary relief provided as a pandemic response, compounding existing inequalities.³⁰

26. AI recommended that Timor-Leste: formally recognize same sex sexual relationships as a matter of government policy so that no person was left behind or discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics, including in the provision of economic and social welfare support in relation to the COVID-

19 pandemic and other disasters; and develop and adopt legal and administrative measures to investigate acts of discrimination, stigmatization and violence against people because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics and ensure people are able to effectively access remedies when their rights are violated, including through criminal prosecutions, compensation, shelters, medical and psycho-social support.³¹ KAHRF made similar recommendations in this regard.³²

27. Joint Submission 3 (JS3) stated that there had been an increase in the rate of birth registration of children under 5 years old, but it was still considered low at 60 percent with only 30 percent of those registered in actual possession of birth certificates. There were much fewer children from rural areas that were registered and holding birth certificates than those from the urban areas. These were largely due to gaps caused by lack of national strategy on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, lack of capacity at municipal level for timely birth registration and of necessary equipment to cover all municipalities, and lack of community and parental awareness on the importance of birth registration. Birth registration was free of charge except for late registration after the age of 5. Transportation costs and distance from municipality offices also contributed to the low turn-out.³³

28. While noting land disputes were a source of conflict, JS4 highlighted that the lack of transparency and failure to follow legal process made land registration vulnerable to corruption, and resulted in incorrect entries on the land registry. The failure to register collective land title put communities at risk of losing their land and culture, and non-implementation of anti-discrimination measures in the law could further entrench gender and other forms of discrimination.³⁴

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

29. AI noted that Timor-Leste, as a small island state, accounted for less than 0.003 per cent of global emissions but was particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels and increased severe weather events (cyclones and heavy rainfall), that threatened people's way of life, livelihoods and security.³⁵ AI also noted that a National Action Plan was published after consultation in 2020, but it failed to include clear and measurable targets for the just and sustainable transition to renewable energy.³⁶

30. Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) stated that rising sea levels and an increase in the effects of climate change posed a major threat to life in Timor-Leste, endangering the lives and homes of citizens. Timor-Leste was not prepared for the effects of climate change and the imminent climate breakdown, and the lives of its citizens were in grave jeopardy as a result. Urgent action was needed to forestall immediate harm to the citizens of Timor-Leste because of the climate breakdown.³⁷

31. JAI noted that in June 2021, the nation finalized its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for climate change, which identified Timor-Leste's greatest points of vulnerability to climate change and sets out the priorities for the nation's response, including risk reduction and environmentally sustainable development. However, substantial action was still needed to protect the rights of its citizens from infringement.³⁸

32. JAI also stated that where possible, Timor-Leste should proactively legislate in order to create sustainable, climate-resistant infrastructure, diversify its economy in order to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture, and protect its citizens from the effects of extreme weather events.³⁹

33. AI recommended that Timor-Leste: ensure any COVID-19 response measures facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels and towards human rights consistent renewable energy and a zero-carbon economy and also provide for greater social protection and the creation of green and other new jobs that deliver sustainable and decent employment (in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8) for all workers without discrimination of any kind.⁴⁰

2. Civil and political rights

*Right to life, liberty and security of person*⁴¹

34. JS4 observed continued violence from members of the military and police during the period 2016-2021 noting that civil society reported having logged 169 incidents of violence during that period: 37 involving the military and 132 involving the police. Most of these involved police and incidents where weapons were utilized other than in accordance with the applicable regulations, or outside of official duty.⁴²

35. JS4 also highlighted that since the introduction, in March 2020, of a state of emergency relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been an increase in physical aggression from security forces towards members of the public. This increase in violence appeared to have been encouraged by some statements from senior security officials in relation to the state of emergency.⁴³

36. JS4 noted that three prisons in Timor-Leste were all over capacity. There were insufficient beds and overcrowding resulted in the spread of illnesses, including tuberculosis. Prisoners at Gleno had reported having insufficient food and water.⁴⁴

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*⁴⁵

37. JS4 stated that access to the formal justice system continued to be hampered by poorly resourced judicial institutions, a lack of publicly funded legal representation, and laws which limited accountability.⁴⁶

38. AI stated that access to justice remained costly and difficult, particularly for those living in rural areas. The diversity of spoken and official languages made it challenging to ensure that laws and legal proceedings were in a language that all people understand.⁴⁷

39. JS4 noted that the National Chega Centre (CNC) was established to implement transitional justice programmes following from Timor-Leste's two truth commissions. The CNC's mandate included memorialization and education, as well as "solidarity" measures to support victims. Direct support to victims was still mostly undertaken by civil society. There was a need for the CNC to increase its accessibility to victims, including in remote areas, and to reinitiate efforts for a trust fund to enable international support for reparations. Many victims of past gender-based violence and their children remained without adequate support services from the state.⁴⁸

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*⁴⁹

40. JS2 stated that concerns by journalists about the fear of being threatened for their reporting or physical attacks against them or their families had been increasing. Some media workers practised various forms of self-censorship to deal with such intimidation.⁵⁰ AI emphasized that Timor-Leste must continue to take steps to protect the right to freedom of expression in law and practice, protect marginalized individuals from violence and discrimination and ensure the right to health in its pandemic responses.⁵¹

41. AI noted that journalists were able to carry out their work without the risk of arrest. However, concerns had been raised about recent laws, including the Media Law passed in 2014, and a draft criminal defamation law in 2020 and their impact on freedom of expression in both law and practice.⁵² Asia Centre (AC) also expressed concern about two draft laws: a draft law released in 2020 that sought to reinstate criminal defamation in Timor-Leste's Penal Code, and a draft Cybercrime Law tabled in January 2021 that would threaten freedom of expression online by criminalising free speech and access to information.⁵³

42. AI also noted that in January 2021, a new cyber bill was proposed to govern the use of social networks and to prevent the spread of 'falsehoods, slander and defamation', which might present a future threat to the right to freedom of expression. The bill was submitted for the Ministers' consideration on 4 January 2021 and consultations were underway.⁵⁴

43. JS4 stated that the right to protest was hindered by Law No. 1/2006 on the Freedom of Assembly and Demonstration. Article 5 prohibited demonstrations within 100 metres of public buildings. The number and density of such buildings in central Dili had the effect in

practice of preventing demonstrations in the city centre. Article 10 required that police be informed of demonstration. In practice the police considered themselves empowered to decide whether a protest was authorized and use the 100 metre rule as a justification for opposing protests. Police violence against student protesters, and unnecessary arrests, were frequently the consequence, serving as a *de facto* means of quashing demonstrations.⁵⁵

44. JS2 stated that In November 2018 police used excessive force to disperse several hundred students associated with Movimentu Universitario Timor-Leste, a student movement that organized a demonstration in front of Dili's Parliamentary Palace to protest against parliament's decision to sell former parliamentary cars at knock-down rates.⁵⁶

45. AI highlighted that while much of the response to the COVID19 pandemic had been timely and appropriate, emergency powers had been used to restrict movement, and peaceful assemblies or to limit public debate and consultation on new laws and policies.⁵⁷

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*⁵⁸

46. European Centre for Law and Justice stated that in recent years, the Government's focus on investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases had been severely lacking. In 2018, the Government investigated only 65 cases of human trafficking—down from 267 cases in the prior year. Even more concerning was that very few cases that were prosecuted resulted in successful convictions. While there were estimates on the number of human trafficking victims in Timor-Leste, the Government had failed to curate data that would reveal the true scope of the issue. Furthermore, the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking expired in 2018, and the Government had yet to either renew or create a new one.⁵⁹

47. JS4 stated that early marriage continued to be a significant issue, particularly in rural communities. No specific action appeared to have been taken since the last UPR cycle.⁶⁰

*Right to privacy and family life*⁶¹

48. AC expressed concern about a proposed Data Privacy and Protection Law that was announced in 2021, highlighting that if it were not drafted properly in consultation with all stakeholders, it might threaten citizens' right to privacy and possibly limit freedom of expression online, if data were to be shared among government agencies and used for surveillance purposes in spite of assigning proper oversight mechanisms.⁶²

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*⁶³

49. JS2 noted that workers were permitted to form and join labour unions and bargain collectively.⁶⁴

50. JS3 noted that there was a 5.1 per cent unemployment rate (6 per cent for female and 3.1 percent male). The share of youth population who were not in education, employment or training was at 20 percent. Two main reasons were the lack of job opportunities and the lack of skills required for employment.⁶⁵

51. JS4 stated that no legal protection existed against workplace sexual harassment. In principle, the civil service had a policy of zero tolerance for workplace sexual harassment, but its implementation had been poor.⁶⁶

*Right to an adequate standard of living*⁶⁷

52. JS4 noted that basic services to ensure access to food, clean water and health services were not sufficiently funded by the state.⁶⁸

53. AI recommended that Timor-Leste ensure that economic recovery packages protect the right to an adequate standard of living of all persons, including people on lower incomes, those working in the informal sector, based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, single-parent households and others who may be at risk and most affected by the

COVID-19 crisis and set up monitoring and review mechanism to assess their impact and amend them as necessary.⁶⁹

54. JS4 stated that malnutrition and food insecurity remained significant problems. Despite targets to increase food crop production, production of maize (the staple food crop) had fallen from 95,433 tons in 2005 to 75,690 tons in 2019. Floods in 2021 destroyed many crops and the Government was overly reliant on rice imports to feed the population.⁷⁰

55. JS4 noted that access to clean water was widely lacking. In 2021, approximately 0.7 per cent of Timor-Leste's total budget was allocated to water and sanitation. Many schools and health posts did not have access to enough water, impacting upon sanitation and hygiene. Some rural communities needed to walk long distances to collect and haul water home.⁷¹ Joint Submission 5(JS5) recommended that Timor-Leste, among others: eradicate open defecation and ensure that all people in urban and rural areas have access to clean water, drinking water and sanitation by providing quality infrastructure; and ensure that all public schools in all stages all over the country have a stable and permanent access to clean water, drinking water and good sanitation facilities.⁷²

*Right to health*⁷³

56. JS4 stated that access to health care remained highly contingent on personal wealth. Urban elites were able to access private health services in Timor-Leste or travel outside the country. Those in rural areas were usually far from essential health services and in many cases remained wary of western medicine. Ongoing and increased efforts were needed to ensure access to adequate health care for all.⁷⁴

57. AI recommended that Timor-Leste: empower and support people to comply with public health regulations, including by ensuring access to public health information and by enabling people who are marginalized to satisfy their essential needs, and ensure that penalties are only imposed after other alternatives have proven, or are clear to be, unsuccessful; and develop a plan to ensure that the public health system is adequately funded and staffed and increase budgetary allocations to the public health sector as necessary.⁷⁵

58. AI also recommended that Timor-Leste ensure national and international criteria to guide the allocation of vaccines are consistent with human rights standards, pay attention to the needs of marginalised groups, and reflect the WHO's Equitable Allocation Framework. Civil society should be represented in any national and international decision-making process.⁷⁶

59. With regard to access to leprosy services, Joint Submission 1(JS1) noted the following challenges faced by Timor-Leste: the number of visible disabilities at diagnosis indicated late leprosy detection in the community; leprosy cases in children were still being detected, meaning that disease transmission was still high; contact tracing and screening activities were not optimal; lack of mapping for leprosy cases in some health centres and clinics; lack of health professionals trained in leprosy diagnosis to clinically detect leprosy cases; and lack of attention to leprosy within the Ministry of Health.⁷⁷

*Right to education*⁷⁸

60. JS3 stated that even though primary and secondary education were free, there were other indirect costs such as school books, uniform and transportation costs that prevented children from low-income families to attend formal schooling. Most of the out of school children came from low-income families and were living in rural and remote areas with difficulty of accessing schools due to distance from their homes.⁷⁹

61. JS4 noted that Timor-Leste had increased the number of children enrolled in school and the numbers indicated rough parity in the enrollment of girls and boys. However, a large number of children (60 per cent) did not continue to secondary schooling after leaving primary school. Moreover, girls often dropped out of school, due to teenage pregnancy, either because childcare support was not available, or because schools would not accept them back. Reproductive health education was formally part of the curriculum but teachers were not given training on how to deliver it.⁸⁰

62. JS4 also noted that many public schools had seriously dilapidated buildings making teaching during the rainy season particularly difficult. A desk review evaluating implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Education concluded that 87 per cent of existing primary school classrooms required repairs and an estimated 1500 further classrooms needed to be built to accommodate student numbers. Further, schools lacked access to clean water or sanitation and had insufficient chairs and desks and teaching resources.⁸¹

63. JS4 highlighted that access to education had been further reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools were twice closed, during which time learning materials were made available through television and smart phones, and some schools distributed a small number of books. Many children were unable to participate, particularly in rural areas, because they did not receive books, did not have a television or could not afford smart phones or data. Parents, due to their own lack of schooling, were often unable to help their children with learning.⁸²

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

*Women*⁸³

64. JAI stated that restrictive gender roles, *de facto* discrimination, and violence against women were still serious problems in Timor-Leste.⁸⁴ It also noted that Timor-Leste had responded to recent criticisms of *de facto* discrimination against women by affirming its ongoing commitment to ending gender discrimination, promulgating laws to require female representation at the local government level, and approving a new National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence aimed at preventing violence and increasing women's access to support services and the justice system.⁸⁵

65. AI noted that reports of gender based violence remained high in Timor-Leste, with the last reliable data source being a baseline survey (2015) showing that 59 per cent of women experienced some physical or sexual violence. Accessing justice through the courts system, judicial officers providing lenient sentences and a lack of suitable remedies were cited as ongoing and systemic challenges.⁸⁶

*Children*⁸⁷

66. JS4 highlighted that Timor-Leste remained without a general legal framework on children's rights, or even a basic law on child protection. This contributed to a lack of understanding of children as rights-holders, as well as to endemic problems affecting Timorese children, including corporal punishment, sexual abuse, discriminatory practices against girls, high incidence of malnutrition and poor quality of education. Two draft laws which had been put before the Parliament, on child protection and juvenile justice, had lapsed without being passed.⁸⁸

67. JS3 also commended Timor Leste for putting forth the National Action Plan for Children (2016-2020) outlining the building up of an enabling environment that respects, protects and fulfils the rights of all children particularly those living in a disadvantaged situation.⁸⁹

68. JAI stated that the exploitation and discrimination of children remained a serious problem. Especially in rural areas, child labour was a common practice, often including dangerous agricultural activities considered among the worst forms of child labour. Forced labour, human trafficking, and sexual trafficking and exploitation of children also remained serious problems.⁹⁰ JS3 also noted a survey indicating a high prevalence of about 24 per cent among 6–14 year olds, and that 6.9 percent of children aged 5–17 years were involved in hazardous work. Nearly 2 in every 3 children were working as “field crop and vegetable growers”. While 76.7 per cent of the children engaged in hazardous work attended school, they were less likely to attend school compared to those not involved in hazardous activities.⁹¹

69. JAI highlighted that violence against children, including domestic violence and sexual violence against girls and young women, remained common. The justice system of Timor-Leste currently provided very few methods for children to seek redress under the law.⁹² JS3 recommended that Timor-Leste step up measures to provide legislative and programmatic

safeguards to build a strong child protection workforce where children victims can seek support, receive assistance and hold into account the perpetrators of violence; and intensify and improve adult and community awareness to change harmful norms, encourage positive parenting and keep a safe environment in the homes as well as in the schools.⁹³

70. JS4 noted that violence against children in schools was commonplace. Although the Government had nominally adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards corporal punishment, it was not implemented in practice. Teachers were rarely sanctioned for violence and in many cases considered it their only disciplinary tool.⁹⁴ Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children recommended that Timor-Leste enact a legislation to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in every setting of their lives and repeal any legal defence allowing its use, as a matter of priority.⁹⁵

71. JS4 noted that child prisoners were housed in Becora Prison where they have separate sleeping quarters but otherwise mixed with adult prisoners. While the Government identified land for a youth prison in 2015, it had yet to commence construction. In this regard, it recommended that Timor-Leste ensure incarceration of children convicted of crimes is a last resort, and house them separately from adult prisoners in a facility designed to meet children's needs.⁹⁶

*Persons with disabilities*⁹⁷

72. JS1 stated that the Government had led the development of a National Disability Action Plan for 2021-2030, which had been considered best practice in involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, strengthening the collaboration between the Government and Disability Sector organizations as well as increasing the real understanding of needs and challenges that persons with disabilities were facing on daily basis. However, the National Council on Disability had not yet been formed.⁹⁸ AI recommended that Timor-Leste: establish a National Council for People with Disabilities to provide advice and support Ministries on issues affecting people with disabilities; and uphold and protect the right to education for all persons with disabilities, beyond primary level education and ensure access to education without discrimination.⁹⁹

73. JS4 stated that public services and institutions were not accessible to persons with disabilities and prejudices persisted among their officials. For example, courts were not accessible to people with mobility limitations, and did not provide sign language interpreters for hearing and speech impaired persons. Similar problems had been identified in health services and the police.¹⁰⁰

74. JS1 noted that that violence against women and children with disabilities was a continuous and pervasive problem, the lack of adequate data remained a challenge in Timor-Leste. In addition, the lack of understanding on violence against women and children with disabilities prevented them to access legal and justice services.¹⁰¹

75. With respect to participation in political space, JS1 recommended that Timor-Leste: improve the current electoral legal and regulatory framework to ensure that the electoral and political rights of persons with disabilities are fully protected in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and develop a disability access and inclusiveness strategy for elections, in consultation with Disability Persons Organizations and other stakeholders.¹⁰²

76. JS1 noted limited geographical access to health services coupled with the additional barriers experienced by persons with disabilities. These included inaccessible health information and infrastructure in both urban and rural settings, and poor attitudes and knowledge of health workers. Reinforced by social attitudes towards disability, health workers and service providers had limited understanding of the different types of disabilities and of leprosy, and the rights of persons with disabilities. Poor attitudes had resulted in heightened discrimination, mistreatment and marginalization of persons with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy in Timor-Leste.¹⁰³ AI stated that in spite of political and policy commitments by the Government to prioritize the rights of people with disabilities, there had been very little substantive improvement in the rights of people with disabilities, including those experiencing mental health issues.¹⁰⁴

77. AI also noted that while people with disabilities had been prioritized in accessing Covid-19 vaccines, this had not translated into improved access to treatment and other health services during the pandemic, particularly for people with accessibility issues.¹⁰⁵ JS1 recommended that Timor-Leste ensure that health-related information, including all information related to COVID-19, is provided in accessible formats such as Braille, audio, pictorial, communication board to meet the diverse needs of persons with disabilities.¹⁰⁶

78. JS4 noted that most schools were not accessible for persons with a disability. Teachers' knowledge of how to support persons with a disability (particularly sight, hearing and speech impaired persons) in the classroom was poor and training for teachers had been limited.¹⁰⁷

79. With respect to economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, JS1 recommended that Timor-Leste: regulate microcredit institutions and banks to provide persons with disabilities (individuals and groups) with access to loans to support their business activities; and require and encourage banks to ensure that their buildings are accessible and have disability-friendly services.¹⁰⁸

Notes

- ¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org. (One asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with "A" status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

AC	Asia Centre, Bangkok (Thailand);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
CGNK	Centre for Global Nonkilling, Geneva (Switzerland);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
GPEVAC	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, London (United Kingdom);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United States);
KAHRF	Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation, Clayton, Victoria (Australia).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Associação de Deficientes de Timor-Leste (ADTL), Dili (Timor-Leste); Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO), Dili (Timor-Leste); The Leprosy Mission Timor-Leste (TLM-TL), Dili (Timor-Leste); Community Based Rehabilitation Network Timor-Leste (CBRN-TL), Dili (Timor-Leste); Asosiasaun Halibur Defisiensi Matan Timor-Leste (AHDMTL), Dili (Timor-Leste); The Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development (PHD); International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), Geneva (Switzerland);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa); Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP), Dili (Timor-Leste); Forum Asia, Bangkok (Thailand); La'o Hamutuk, Dili (Timor-Leste);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco (IIMA); International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development (VIDES International);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: Asosiasaun Chega ba Ita (ACbit); Asosiasaun Defisiensi Matan Timor-Leste (ADTL); Asosiasaun Halibur Defisiensi Matan Timor-Leste (AHDMTL); Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR); Asisténsia Legál ba Feto no Labarik (ALFeLa); Asosiasaun Hukum Dan Keadilan (HAK); Belun; Community Based Rehabilitation Network – Timor-Leste (CBRN-TL); FOKUPERS; Fundasaun

Codiva - Coalition for Diversity and Action; Fundasaun Mahein; The Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP); JU,S Jurídico Social; Lao Hamutuk - Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis; Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO); Rede Ba Rai; Rede Hametin Agrikultura Sustentável Timor Lorosae (HASATIL); Timor-Leste Coalition for Education (TLCE);

JS5

Joint submission 5 submitted by: VIVAT International; Edmund Rice International; The Commission of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation of SVD Timor-Leste (JPIC SVD Timor-Leste); The Commission of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation of SSps Timor-Leste (JPIC SSps Timor-Leste); the Commission of Justice and Peace of Maliana Diocese (JP of Maliana Diocese), Vivat International-Indonesia.

National human rights institution:

PDHJ

Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (National Human Rights Commission of Timor-Leste)* , Dili (Timor-Leste).

² PDHJ, para. 2.

³ PDHJ, paras. 3-4.

⁴ PDHJ, para. 11.

⁵ PDHJ, para. 24.

⁶ PDHJ, paras. 26-27.

⁷ PDHJ, paras. 28-30.

⁸ PDHJ, para. 35.

⁹ PDHJ, paras. 30-32.

¹⁰ PDHJ, para. 14.

¹¹ PDHJ, para. 17.

¹² PDHJ, para. 33.

¹³ PDHJ, para. 23

¹⁴ PDHJ, para. 13

¹⁵ The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

¹⁶ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.1-89.4, 89.6-89.26, 89.28-89.29, 89.63-89.68, and 89.97.

¹⁷ AI, para. 2. See also JS4, paras. 15 and 29; CGNK, page 7; JS1, page 4.

- ¹⁸ CGNK, page 6.
- ¹⁹ ICAN, page 1.
- ²⁰ AI, Recommendations (page 3).
- ²¹ AI, Recommendations (page 3).
- ²² JS2, para. 6.5.
- ²³ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.27, 89.30 - 89.34, 89.36-89.38, 89.40-89.42, 89.44, 89.46-89.56, 89.62, 89.69, 89.71, 89.81-89.82, 89.84-89.85, 89.87-89.88, 89.92-89.93, 89.95, 89.101-89.102, 89.106, 89.112, 89.115, 89.119, 89.123-89.124, 89.131, and 89.142.
- ²⁴ JS4, para. 63.
- ²⁵ JS4, para. 66.
- ²⁶ AI, para. 6.
- ²⁷ AI, para. 17.
- ²⁸ KAHRF, para. 1.2.
- ²⁹ JS4, para. 40.
- ³⁰ AI, paras. 18-19. See also JS4, para. 38.
- ³¹ AI, Recommendations (page 4).
- ³² KAHRF, para. 2.
- ³³ JS3, para. 15.
- ³⁴ JS4, para. 54.
- ³⁵ AI, para. 18.
- ³⁶ AI, para. 19.
- ³⁷ JAI, para. 1.
- ³⁸ JAI, para. 16.
- ³⁹ JAI, para. 17.
- ⁴⁰ AI, Recommendations (page 5).
- ⁴¹ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.78-89.80, 89.96, 89.103, 89.108, 89.110, 89.113, and 89.116.
- ⁴² JS4, paras. 56-57.
- ⁴³ JS4, para. 61.
- ⁴⁴ JS4, para. 12.
- ⁴⁵ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.105, 89.107, 89.111, 89.114, and 89.117.
- ⁴⁶ JS4, para. 1.
- ⁴⁷ AI, para. 8.
- ⁴⁸ JS4, para. 14.
- ⁴⁹ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.125-89.127.
- ⁵⁰ JS2, para. 4.6.
- ⁵¹ AI, para. 3.
- ⁵² AI, para. 9.
- ⁵³ AC, para. 2. See also JS2, paras. 4.10-4.11.
- ⁵⁴ AI, para. 12. See also JS4, para. 49.
- ⁵⁵ JS4, para. 50.
- ⁵⁶ JS2, para. 5.7.
- ⁵⁷ AI, para. 18.
- ⁵⁸ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, para.89.103.
- ⁵⁹ ECLJ, para. 14.
- ⁶⁰ JS4, para. 47.
- ⁶¹ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.57, 89.98, and 89.121-89.122.
- ⁶² AC, para. 3.
- ⁶³ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, para.89.130.
- ⁶⁴ JS2, para. 2.5.
- ⁶⁵ JS3, para. 22.
- ⁶⁶ JS4, para. 31.
- ⁶⁷ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.39, 89.73, 89.132 - 89.136, 89.148-89.149, and 89.154.
- ⁶⁸ JS4, para. 16.
- ⁶⁹ AI, Recommendations (page 5).
- ⁷⁰ JS4, para. 18.
- ⁷¹ JS4, para. 20.
- ⁷² JS5, Recommendations (page 5).
- ⁷³ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.137-89.141, 89.143, and 89.152.
- ⁷⁴ JS4, para. 21.

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- ⁷⁵ AI, Recommendations (pages 4-5).
⁷⁶ AI, Recommendations (page 5).
⁷⁷ JS1, page 8.
⁷⁸ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.54, 89.72, 89.144-89.147, and 89.151.
⁷⁹ JS3, para. 9.
⁸⁰ JS4, paras. 22-23.
⁸¹ JS4, para. 25.
⁸² JS4, para. 26.
⁸³ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.5, 89.45, 89.70, 89.74-89.77, 89.83, 89.86, 89.89-89.91, 89.120, and 89.128 - 89.129.
⁸⁴ JAI, para. 20.
⁸⁵ JAI, para. 22.
⁸⁶ AI, para. 13.
⁸⁷ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.35, 89.58, 89.94, 89.102, and 89.118.
⁸⁸ JS4, para. 42.
⁸⁹ JS3, para. 14.
⁹⁰ JAI, para. 23.
⁹¹ JS3, para. 16.
⁹² JAI, para. 24. See also JS4, para. 45.
⁹³ JS3, Recommendations 1-2 (page 6).
⁹⁴ JS4, para. 46.
⁹⁵ GPEVAC, page 1.
⁹⁶ JS4, para. 11.
⁹⁷ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/34/11, paras.89.60-89.61, and 89.150.
⁹⁸ JS1, page 4.
⁹⁹ AI, Recommendations (page 4); JS1, Recommendation B (page 4).
¹⁰⁰ JS4, para. 29.
¹⁰¹ JS1, page 10.
¹⁰² JS1, Recommendations V-W (page 12).
¹⁰³ JS1, page 5.
¹⁰⁴ AI, para. 15.
¹⁰⁵ AI, para. 16.
¹⁰⁶ JS1, Recommendation F (page 6).
¹⁰⁷ JS4, para. 28.
¹⁰⁸ JS1, Recommendations R-S (page 10).
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