



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

13th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Consideration of the National Report of India
24 May 2011

Statement by Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca

Thank You Mr. President,

Timor-Leste welcomes the delegation of India to the 13th Session of the UPR. Delivering on human rights commitments in a country as populous and large as India is indeed a challenging task. Many progresses have been achieved, and we wish to commend India for those achievements.

During the first cycle of the UPR, India accepted a number of recommendations, including in relations to the ratification of the Convention against Torture and the ratification of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW. We are pleased to note that The Lower House of Parliament has passed the Prevention of Torture Bill in 2010. It is worth noting, however, that the Select Committee of the Upper House has identified several shortcomings with the Bill, and has made recommendations to rectify those shortcomings. We recommend that the Government of India considers introducing a new bill to the Parliament, taking into full consideration the suggestions of the Select Committee, and take further actions towards the ratification of CAT.

The National Report presented in this session made no reference to the ratification of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW. We note however, that various initiatives have been taken to ensure the protection of the rights of women and the promotion of gender equality, including women's political participation. We recommend that India considers expediting the process to pass the 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill which seeks to reserve a significant portion of seats for women at the Lower House and state legislative assemblies, and consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW.

Thank you