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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 the Philippines  
29 May 2011

*Statement by Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca*

Thank you Madam President.

Timor-Leste recognizes the Philippines commitment to the international human rights system and its continuing efforts to improve the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Since the first review has acceded to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD), the Optional Protocol to CAT and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. At the domestic level, the Philippines has also enacted the Anti-Torture Law and Magna Carta of Women.

In the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Timor-Leste commends the Philippines for the targeted anti-poverty programs such as the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services and the Pantawid Pamilya Program. Timor-Leste encourages the Philippines to continue these programmes and avoid the current economic and financial crisis from taking the toll on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable population.

We welcome the report of the decrease in the number of extrajudicial killings and ~~enforced disappearances~~ in the Philippines. As the Philippines Armed Forces and National Police are instrumental in the combat against such heinous crimes, it is important the rejection of such crimes be part of the operational doctrines of these two institutions. Timor-Leste therefore recommend that the Philippines continue to reassess the necessity, and, where the need exists, to considers devising programs that incorporate the prohibition of extrajudicial killings and ~~enforced disappearances~~ for the Philippines Army and the National Police, and to establish the necessary safeguards and monitoring mechanisms to guarantee compliance.

Thank you