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

14<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Review of the National Report of Japan

Statement by

*Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca*

Thank you Mdm. President,

Timor-Leste congratulates Japan for its achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights of its people. We thank Japan for its invaluable contribution to the improvement of human rights situation worldwide.

We appreciate Japan's engagement with the various UN Human Rights Mechanisms, and to take actions on their comments and recommendations.

Timor-Leste and Japan enjoy a special relationship, which is based on the universal values of human rights. Japan has been a strong supporter of Timor-Leste in its development endeavours since independence. Such support allowed Timor-Leste, among other things, to establish the Commission for Truth, Reception and Reconciliation, to deal with its own dark history of conflict. In reciprocity, making reference to the concerns expressed by the Human Rights Committee regarding the victims of atrocities committed in the past, we encourage Japan to continue its efforts to promote dialogue with the international community to reach mutual understanding, which may entail a direct and genuine communication with the survivors of the past atrocities.

We wish Japan all the success in its endeavours.