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

14th Session of the HRC's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Review of the National Report of Switzerland

Statement by

Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca

Thank you Mdm. President,

The National report of Switzerland relates many positive developments since the review of the first cycle. Efforts have been and continue to be made to harmonize both Federal and Cantonal legislations with the international human rights standards. We understand the challenges faced by Switzerland in this exercise, due to the country's political system. However, we believe that further improvements can be made.

Having examined the National Report, we believe that the issue of racial discrimination and xenophobia constitute a significant challenge for the enjoyment of human rights in Switzerland. We therefore recommend that the Government of Switzerland considers conducting public education and awareness campaign with the aim to overcome the negative preconceptions against foreign nationals and immigrants among the Swiss population.

Given the high percentage of foreign population in Switzerland, including those engaged in employment, we also recommend that Switzerland ratifies the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and ensure its domestic application.

Thank you.