



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

15<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of the National Report of Botswana

Statement by  
*Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca*

Thank you Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Botswana to this session of the UPR Working group and thanks them for their information.

We commend Botswana for its commitment to uphold the highest standards in the promotion of human rights, manifested in the accession to a number of international and regional human rights treaties. Consistent with this commitment, Botswana has made considerable efforts to address existing human rights issues in the country. Specific strategies to promote and protect the rights women, children and youth are noteworthy, as they are still the most vulnerable among the population of Botswana.

Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, and negative cultural practices are among the common challenges for women empowerment. Timor-Leste is pleased to note that measures are being taken to mitigate these challenges. We believe that such measures could be strengthened through the improvement of education outcomes of women.

Botswana has taken a bold to mainstream human right in the education system by incorporating human rights subject in the school curriculum. It is essential to ensure that while pupils are learning about human rights, they also acquire a first-hand experience of their human rights being respected. As CEDAW noted, and we wish to bring to the attention of Botswana, there are still reports of practices of corporal punishment within the school and home settings.

Timor-Leste makes the following recommendations:

1. Apply strict measures to stamp out corporal punishment in school and home settings;
2. Redouble the efforts to increase women participation in education, including tertiary education;
3. Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and its optional protocol.