

36



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

15th Session of the HRC's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Review of the National Report of France

Statement by

Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca

Thank you Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of France to the 15th Session of the UPR and thank them for their information.

Timor-Leste recognizes that important steps have been taken to implement recommendations from the last review, as a way to improve the human rights situation in France. These include ratification of several human rights treaties, *measures to combat racism and xenophobia, and measures to enhance gender equality.* We commend France for the adoption of the national action plan against racism and anti-Semitism, which are being implemented through various programs, including through awareness-raising in schools. We recommend that the plan be complemented with the incorporation of relevant materials in the school curriculum to combat negative preconception against sections of the French society of migrant ~~origin~~ *background.*

The existing challenges for gender equality in such a long standing democracy as France may be an illustration that the causes of gender inequality are rooted in the society, which would require a continuous and long term strategy. We commend France for the various plans formulated to the combat gender inequality, and look forward to their implementation.