



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 Tonga.

Statement by
Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca

Thank you Mr. President,

Timor-Leste extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Tonga and thanks them for the informative report.

We congratulate Tonga for initiating strong steps, through the recent constitutional reform, towards strengthening democratic institutions and mechanisms. In this regard, we commend Tonga for the election a parliament where the majority of its members are elected by popular vote. We note, however, that different age of majority for universal suffrage still apply for different parts of the Tongan population.

Tonga is also making commendable efforts to enhance access to education, through the provision of free primary and secondary education, and financial support for overseas tertiary education.

We believe that improvement can still be made. We note the Tonga is yet to accede to a number of core human rights treaties. Recent efforts to accede to CEDAW have yet to come to fruition.

Timor-Leste recommends that Tonga considers taking the following measures:

1. Ensure equal public participation through the introduction of a universal legal age of majority for all Tongan.
2. Ratify core international human rights treaties, including ICCPR and ICESCR, CEDAW, and its protocol, the protocols to the Convention on the Rights of Child, and the Convention against Torture.

We wish Tonga all the success in its endeavours.