



71

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

Statement on the Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (WG-UPR)
19th Session

BHUTAN

Mr. President,

Timor-Leste warmly welcomes the members of the Delegation of Bhutan and thanks them for their participation to the 19th session of the UPR Working Group.

Timor-Leste takes note of the positive steps undertaken by the Government of Bhutan with regards to the promotion and protection of human rights and its efforts to implement most of the accepted recommendations during the last review held in 2009.

Timor-Leste commends the decision made by the Government of Bhutan to allocate a significant part of the State budget to fundamental sectors such as education and health.

In particular, Timor-Leste notes with appreciation that guaranteeing free health services for all Bhutanese citizens and free primary education for all children remains a priority and that impressive progresses have been made towards ensuring gender equality in education.

Furthermore, Timor-Leste would like to underline the frankness of the Government of Bhutan in recognizing the need to address a number of challenges, and, in this regard, takes this opportunity to make the following recommendations:

-to continue to seek assistance from United Nations system and the international community in order to promote human rights awareness throughout the country;

-to pursue in its commitment to develop human resources and to strengthen national social and political institutions in order to enhance its capacity to fulfil its international human rights obligations.

I thank you Mr. President.