**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF TIMOR-LESTE AT THE 26TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 3 NOVEMBER 2016**

Mr President,

 Singapore warmly welcomes the delegation of Timor-Leste to the 26th UPR Working Group session and thanks it for its presentation.

Timor-Leste has taken undertaken concrete policies and programmes since its last UPR in 2011 to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.

In the area of gender equality, the Timor-Leste government has sought to build on the Dili Declaration by establishing mechanisms to strengthen gender mainstreaming at national and municipal levels.

Singapore **recommends** that Timor-Leste continues to implement policies and programmes that seek to ensure gender equality and provide opportunities for women to improve their standing in social, economic and political life.

Singapore welcomes Timor-Leste’s efforts to increase employment in the country, including through the provision of skills training and the strengthening of partnerships with the private sector.

We **recommend** that Timor-Leste continue to prioritise efforts to provide education and training opportunities to strengthen the capacity of Timorese workers, particularly young people and the unemployed.

 Singapore and Timor-Leste share warm and friendly bilateral relations. We remain committed to supporting Timor-Leste through the Singapore Cooperation Programme to help Timor-Leste achieve its development goals and develop its human capacity.

 We join the many friends of Timor-Leste in wishing it every success in its development and in protecting and promoting the human rights of its people.

 Thank you Mr President.

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