**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 26th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Timor-Leste**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia would like to acknowledge and congratulate Timor-Leste on the progress it has made since its first UPR session, particularly its advancements in human development.

Australia notes Timor-Leste’s concerted effort to address gender based violence, primarily through implementing the 2010 Domestic Violence Law. **Australia recommends Timor-Leste designate a central high level agency responsible for implementing the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence and ensure adequate budget is allocated to seriously tackle widespread and intergenerational rates of child abuse and violence against women.**

Australia commends Timor-Leste’s efforts to realise economic and social rights, but we remain concerned that 42 percent of Timor-Leste’s population live below the poverty line, with 49.2 percent of children who are stunted and 32.4 percent underweight. **Australia recommends** **Timor-Leste** **increase the percentage of overall government spending dedicated to health and education.**

Australia isa strong supporter of international efforts to combat and reduce statelessness. **Australia recommends Timor-Leste accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Australia welcomes Timor-Leste’s National Action Plan for People with Disabilities, however we remain concerned it has not yet been executed. We encourage the government to implement this plan as a high priority. **Australia recommends Timor-Leste implement its commitment under the first UPR to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring the rights and voices of people with a disability lead this process.**