**UPR 26, November 3, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for Timor-Leste’s UPR**

Canada welcomes the legislative steps taken by Timor-Leste to protect and promote women’s rights, including changes to the civil and labour codes.

Canada recommends that Timor-Leste:

1. Implement the National Action Plan against sexual and gender-based violence, including by improving access to justice for victims, providing targeted training and capacity-building to law enforcement and judicial officials, and dedicating sufficient resources to enable key ministries to implement the Action Plan and increase coordination;
2. Bring the Civil Code into full conformity with its international obligations and commitments, including the *Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, to ensure that civil partnerships and *de facto* non-traditional or non-Catholic marriages are recognized by the Civil Code and that women have equal rights as men in matters of inheritance and land ownership;
3. Enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to ensure that everyone, including those under 18, is protected in accordance with the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking*; and
4. Ratify immediately the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and establish the planned National Council on Disability after, rather than prior to, ratification to ensure a speedy ratification process.

**Observations**

Canada is concerned about the high rate of domestic violence in Timor-Leste, and the many problems that victims of rape and sexual abuse continue to face when seeking access to justice.

We are also concerned about the lack of anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status in all areas of public life, including health care, education and housing.