

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**40**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Timor-Leste**

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Mister President,

Vanuatu welcomes the delegation of Timor-Leste to its third review and thanks it for the presentation today.

We commend the positive developments that Timor Leste has achieved from the second to the third cycle of the UPR. We especially note that Timor-Leste has had significant social and economic development, and strengthened democratic participation of all citizens in the affairs of the nation. We also recognize the efforts made by the country to overcome the obstacles faced in implementing protections for the Human Rights of the people.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Vanuatu recommends to Timor-Leste the following:

1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
2. Integrate women’s rights into the legislation comprehensively and pay particular attention to the protection of the rights of women and girls living with disabilities.

Vanuatu wishes Timor-Leste a successful review.

Thank you, Mister President.