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

**Timor-Leste**

**27 January 2022**

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Cabo Verde warmly welcomes the delegation of Timor-Leste to this third cycle review and commends Timor-Leste for the presentation of its national report as well as for the achievements in implementing the recommendations issued from the second cycle review, especially with regard to the protection of most vulnerable groups such as children and women.

In this context, we welcome the legislations and measures undertaken to counter human rights violations against women and girls, to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in school and to promote social participation of women and girls. Cabo Verde encourages the Government of Timor-Leste to take steps to further protect children against all other forms of violence, particularly by approving both tutelary and education law and the special penal regime for minors.

The Republic of Cabo Verde notes with appreciation the progress made in the field of social protection and the creation of other living conditions in spite of the in the current COVID-19 situation.

Cabo Verde also congratulates Timor-Leste for the ratification of seven human rights conventions and for its engagement in cooperating with Unites Nations human rights mechanisms.

The Republic of Cabo Verde positively notes the finalization of the 2021 National Adaptation Plan for climate change, which identifies Timor-Leste’s greatest points of vulnerability to climate change and sets out the priorities for the nation’s response.

In constructive spirit, the Republic of Cabo Verde presents the following recommendations to Timor-Leste:

1. Take additional measures in order to prevent and abolish early marriage throughout the country.
2. Continue to strengthening the justice system, as to improve one of the most important pillar of a democratic constitutional state.

Finally, we commend Timor-Leste’s commitment to protection of human rights and wish you a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Chair