

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

Universal Periodic Review

Kingdom of Tonga

1 May 2023

1 minute

Thank you, President/ Vice-President,

Timor-Leste welcomes the delegation of Tonga and commends the progress made on human rights since its last UPR, including the adoption of the National Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Tonga Policy and Strategic Plan of Action 2019-2025, and the relevant budget allocated for their implementation.

We also welcome the endorsement by the Cabinet of the Government of Tonga, the Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy aims to protect public servants from workplace harassment, and the Tongan Climate Change Policy and Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

In a constructive spirit, my delegation recommends the Kingdom of Tonga to:

1. Consider formally abolishing the death penalty.
2. Consider signing and accede to core international human rights treaties, to which Tonga is not yet a party.
3. Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principle.
4. Adopt a human rights-based approach in the implementation of its climate change policies.

We wish the esteemed delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga a successful review.

Thank you.