



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE

Statement by Senior Minister Ana Pessoa
Minister for State Administration
Human Rights Council
Geneva, 20 June 2006

Permanent Mission of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
GENEVA

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MINISTER FOR STATE ADMINISTRATION, TIMOR-LESTE**

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Mr. President

Madam High Commissioner

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very honoured to have the privilege to address your Excellencies at this historic launch of the United Nations Human Rights Council

This new body better reflects the universality of human rights by elevating the Council into a body directly elected by the General Assembly, giving it greater transparency and legitimacy. It has also an explicitly defined function of periodically reviewing the record of all states, starting with that of its own members, in fulfilling their human rights obligations. This approach will strengthen and help to improve the human rights work of the Organization as a whole.

At the same time, the Council will preserve the best features of the Commission, including the use of independent rapporteurs and the opportunity for non-governmental organizations to play their essential role in the Organization's human rights work.

The government of Timor-Leste having ratified the core human rights treaties, became obligated to implement the provisions of these treaties and to submit reports detailing its progress in implementation and it committed in good faith to pilot the common core Document.

Timor-Leste strongly affirms the view of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that international human rights treaties are of strategic importance, and that the ongoing process of treaty reporting should be welcomed as a dynamic opportunity for State parties to:

- Clarify their obligations under the range of treaties to which they are party