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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**26th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
31st October – 11th November 2016, Geneva**

**Review of Timor-Leste
3rd November 2016**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |
Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the delegation from Timor-Leste to this review, and we express our appreciation for today's presentation and the national report.

The Maldives commends Timor-Leste on the measures undertaken by the Government to implement the recommendation from their previous UPR cycle especially those concerning birth registration leading to better child protection and social services. As a Small Island Developing State, structural challenges remain a hinderance to holistic and sustainable development, especially in light of the country's turbulent past. The Government's continued commitment to strengthening its Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) is essential to ensure the rule of law and the healing of Timore-Leste.

The Maldives makes the following recommendations, to the Government of Timore-Leste:

- 1) Continue its efforts to improve access to health care service
- 2) Finalize the creation and facilitating the functioning of a National Council for Persons with Disabilities

To conclude, we wish to commend Timor- Leste for having made improvements in literacy through non-formal education, while continuing to strive to improve formal education as well.

The Maldives wishes the delegation from Timor-Leste every success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.