



Save the Children



KOLIGASAUN BA DIREITUS LABARIK
TIMOR LESTE



United Nations Human Rights Council
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Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports.

Consideration of the UPR report of Timor-Leste

Madame President,

Save the Children and Plan International are making this statement on behalf of the Child Rights Coalition Timor-Leste (CRC TL). We welcome the Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Timor-Leste, in particular the recommendations on children's rights.

We commend the Government of Timor-Leste for immediately accepting 88 UPR recommendations, including on health, nutrition, education and the National Child Rights Commission.

1. *Health and nutrition*

The Government accepted recommendation 77.45 on the measures to improve access to health services, particularly in remote communities, and recommendation 78.30 on the need to continue efforts to develop policies and programs to reduce malnutrition.

The Child Rights Coalition calls on the Government to implement urgent and concrete policies to improve the quality of the school feeding program, in particular through a more efficient management of the program and the use of local products, which will not only strengthen the local economy but also ensure the program's sustainability.

2. *Education*

The Government accepted recommendations 78.32, 78.38 and 78.39 on improved access to quality education, including the need to ensure universal education through the support to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

The Child Rights Coalition commend actions taken in this regard and calls on the Government to continue these efforts, notably through a substantial increase of the State budget for education, with the ultimate goal of achieving the international standard of 20% dedicated to education. We also call for urgent adoption of policies and measures to ensure that the construction and improvement of school buildings in the country follow safe and child-friendly standards.

3. *National Child Rights Commission*

The Government accepted recommendation 77.17 on the need to provide the National Child Rights Commission (NCRC) with adequate resources to carry out its mandate.

The Child Rights Coalition calls on the Government to urgently pass legislation to establish a truly independent and fully resourced National Child Rights Commission, ensuring its mandate includes legal competence to undertake institutional interventions to ensure fulfilment of children's rights by relevant Ministries and receive complaints of rights violations.

Save the Children, Plan International and the Child Rights Coalition Timor-Leste look forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organisations in the follow-up and implementation of the UPR recommendations.

Thank you.

Child Rights Coalition Timor-Leste is a civil society coalition of 7 organizations working to promote child rights in Timor-Leste. The Coalition was established in November 2011 to coordinate the monitoring of the implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Optional Protocols to the UN CRC, and other mechanisms that have an impact on children's rights.