



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSION (MSSI)
Office of Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity
Rua de Caicoli, Dili
Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste Country Statement
By H.E. Signi Chandrawati Verdial
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To the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Committee on Social Development
Seventh Session
Bangkok and online, 6-9 September 2022
Item 5 of the agenda
Review of Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to
“Make The Right Real” for Persons with Disability in Asia and the Pacific

Her Excellency Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

ESCAP member States delegates

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Article 21 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste states that all persons with disability enjoy the same rights as all other citizens and that the State shall promote the protection of persons with disability following the law.

The 2015 Census of Housing and Population shows that persons with disability constitute 3.2% of the total population distributed along four types of disabilities: physical, vision, hearing, and intellectual. 64% of them are persons with vision impairment.

The Government, through the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, has been working with Timor-Leste's Disability Persons' Organizations (ADTL) to push for progress in the country. With the

adoption of the 2021-2030 National Action Plan for Persons with Disability, Timor-Leste intends to have a more disability-inclusive society. With the NAP, 11 government agencies were involved in the technical inter-ministerial working group on the implementation of the NAP gearing towards more disability-sensitive budgeting across the Government's priorities and programs.

Another progress to note is the National Parliament's Resolution No. 29/2022 of 20 July 2022 on the ratification and accession of UN Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and its optional protocols, making Timor-Leste has ratified all eight core human rights treaties.

After the ratification of the CRPD, the National Commission for the Defense of the Rights of Persons with Disability will be set up soon to monitor its implementation in the country.

Concerning item 5 of the agenda, Timor-Leste commits to:

1. Make legal adjustments required for the incorporation of the CRPD into the national legal frameworks.
2. Ensure disability-inclusive development in the areas of employment, accessibility, social protection, early childhood intervention and education, gender equality, and women's empowerment.
3. Set priorities for disability-inclusive development identified in the region.
4. Welcome the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific on the Decade of Persons with Disability, 2023-2032.
5. Cooperate with the Committee on the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and other subsequent related documents.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.