COUNTRY STATEMENT

Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development
26-28 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
By His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Amaral, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative to UN-ESCAP

Mr. Chairman /Madam Chair
Excellencies
Distinguished Guests delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to represent the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste at this important Midterm Review of the Asian and the Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, here in Bangkok.

Timor-Leste is full committed towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and I also proud to share some insights regarding the progress and challenges we face, as relatively young Nation, in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

According to the latest 2016 Demographic Health Survey, Timor-Leste has a rapid decline in fertility from 7.8 births per woman in 2003 to 4.2 in 2016. A comprehensive right based family policy was approved by Council of Ministers in 2004 and is still in place today to ensure the quality of the provision of family planning services.

Maternal mortality has declined to 557 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births according to the 2010 Census and continuing drop as reported by the 2016 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) to a staggering 195 deaths per 100,000 live births. The Government of Timor-Leste through its maternal health program has made significant efforts to bring down the number as follows:

In 2015, the Ministry of Health conducted a full assessment of the current Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EMoNC) to review progress and identify gaps and needs. In order to address the gaps and needs, an EMONC Improvement Plan of Action was developed and is being implemented in the whole country with the aim to be completed in 2019.
The implementation of the plan is supported by multi partners, led by MoH and UNFPA as one of the best practices in the country. The MoH has established Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR). Effective implementation of MDSR has a significant impact on the quality of care and the improvement of maternal and perinatal health outcomes.

With regards to the collaboration between the relevant ministries on comprehensive sexual education, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports have a strong collaboration in terms of reaching out to young people in School. Furthermore, The Ministry of Education has integrated the Comprehensive Sexual Education program into the National Curriculum. In 2017, the council of Ministers approved a National Inclusive Education Policy.

Similarly, addressing Gender-based Violence is fundamental to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on Health (Goal 3), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Peace and Justice (Goal 16), among others. Since the promulgation of the 2010 Law against Domestic Violence (LADV), there have been two National Action Plans on GBV (2012-2016) and 2017-2021 (NAP GBV) approved. Despite the challenges, Timor-Leste has made important progress on gender equality with Women representation in national parliament reaching 40%, and a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security approved and currently being implemented.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Timor-Leste affirm the right of every Timorese person to access sexual, maternal and reproductive health information, and ensure that these services are affordable, good quality, culturally sensitive and gender responsive, in the pursuit of our national priorities and development goals and targets, in adherence to our international commitments such as to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Cairo Programme of Action, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on Socio-Economic Rights, Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of Children and all other international human rights treaties and conventions of which the Democratic Republic Timor-Leste is State Party.

Timor-Leste is continuing its commitments;

- To reduce Timorese mother die from pregnancy and child birth
- To reduce Timorese baby, die before, during and after birth,
- To ensure that no Timorese young woman will lose her place in school because of unplanned pregnancy
- To ensure everyone is in the picture or leave no behind; all Timorese – men, women and young people – should have access to correct and complete information and quality services to ensure their full access to sexual, maternal and reproductive health rights.
- To reduce and eliminate violence against women and girls

Thank you very much.