



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN BA SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

Press Release
5 July 2022
National Parliament

JSMP appreciates the good will of the Government of Timor-Leste to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Government of Timor-Leste, through the National Parliament, on 4 July 2022 approved Draft Resolution No. 16/V(4th) on the Ratification of Timor-Leste's accession to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Draft Resolution No.17/V(4th) on the Ratification of accession to the Optional Protocol to the CRPD with 45 unanimous votes.

“JSMP praises the efforts and work of the National Parliament and the Government to ratify this convention. JSMP urges the Government and relevant state institutions to give priority to its implementation, especially to include it in Government programs. This is a mechanism to better ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Ms. Ana Paula Marçal.

The MPs made speeches during the discussion and said that it is time for Timor-Leste to ratify this Convention to comply with international requirements set out in this convention, so that we do not discriminate against the rights of persons with disabilities as they have been violated to date, especially the right to access school, work, as well as public access.

JSMP hopes that this ratification can respond to public concerns about the rights of persons with disabilities that have not really been given sufficient protection and promotion to date from the Government and stakeholders as identified by JSMP thorough research conducted on the issue of persons with disabilities and the ratification of the CRPD¹. In addition to this research, JSMP, together with a working group on the issue of persons with disabilities, for many years has conducted advocacy to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of the convention on persons with disabilities.

Also, JSMP recommends for the Government to create complementary legislation,

¹ Details of this report are available at: <https://jsmp.tl/wp-content/uploads/Relatoriu-Ema-ho-Defisiensia-ho-nia-dezafiu-sira-Publika.pdf>

including the establishment of a National Commission on Persons with Disabilities to perform work to respond to the rights of the disabled in the future.

Draft resolutions initiated from the Government in May 2022 were sent to the National Parliament to provide ratification pursuant to the provisions of subsection f) paragraph 3 Article 95 and paragraph 1) Article 9 of the Timor-Leste Constitution and also the provisions of paragraph 2 Article 131 of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure.

This Convention comprises 50 articles that deal with the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and also the obligations of State parties to create appropriate political, administrative and legislative mechanisms to uphold these fundamental rights and freedoms.

The State or Government has the obligation to comply because according to the provisions of paragraph 2) Article 9 of the Timor-Leste Constitution this international law automatically comes into force upon approval and ratification.

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