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UN Women and Partners Commemorated International Women's Day

From 7-12 March, 2018 UN Women—together with over 17 key partners, organized a series of events to commemorate the International Women's Day (IWD). Connecting to campaigns #MeToo; #Timesup, etc., the events aimed to raise the urgency of joint action to advance women's voices, participation and leadership towards the achievement of gender equality across Timor-Leste.

The IWD provided a platform for highlighting the discrimination women face, particularly in rural areas, and their contributions to the country- and called for more inclusive development efforts. Inspiring individuals and institutions into action, more than 200 people convened in Dili for a solidarity walk on 10th March, with a spotlight on the role and contributions of female veterans during the nation's struggle for freedom.

Connecting the past to encourage wider recognition of women's potential as leaders in the future, the walk brought together marchers spanning 4 generations, representing high school students, survivors of sexual violence, government institutions, gender equality advocates, youth, civil society, media, UN Agencies and other development partners.

UN Women collaborated with Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SEIGIS), the national women's network Rede Feto and Association CHEGA ba Ita Hotu (ACBIT)—with support from numerous partners. The march ended with a commemoration of Rede Feto's 18th Anniversary, with a message by the Prime Minister Dr. Mari Alkatiri.

Click [here](#) for more photos of the event

ACBIT Produced a video of the Walk/March click this [link](#)

Welcome Remarks

As 2018 begins, we see a momentum building across the world and in Timor-Leste, with great potential for lasting change. We see communities mobilizing across countries and generations, from rural to urban spaces, taking action on the streets and through social media. As we commemorate the progress made, we must also remember that women, with diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities, have crossed many barriers to enjoying their rights. We must keep the stories of these women and this progress alive - it is the hope that change is possible.

We must also learn lessons from the past - as we still have a long way to go before we reach gender equality. When we listen to women who have paved the way for others to enjoy more equitable roles in society, they tell a story of disruption and struggle. We must continue this struggle and ask ourselves, how are we disrupting the systems that keep women with a lower status - in the family, community, and at work? We must ask - how are we using our power to create space for women in their diversity- inclusive of women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons- women who face stigma and violence?

Through our actions and our words, we can make a change and amplify the voices of women who are silenced by discrimination. Their voices are all around us- we just need to listen.

In this spirit of remembering gender equality defenders, this Newsletter is dedicated to Mana Filomena Fuca, a Rede Feto member and UN Women friend, who passed away on 28 March 2018. Filomena's commitment to eliminating discrimination faced by women was significant and her contributions remain with us in our broader efforts to advance gender equality. In celebrating Mana Mena's vision of change, I invite readers to commit to action - individually we can pave the path to equality and collectively disrupt the discrimination around us - [the Time is Now](#).

Kumprimentus,

Sunita Caminha,
UN Women Head of Office

TIME IS NOW: Weaving & Women's Intellectual Property Rights



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(Left) Panel members for the discussion on women's intellectual property rights; (top right & bottom right) tais exhibition by Timor Aid

On 8 March, more than 70 people, including representatives from the government, civil society organizations, and international development partners convened to discuss women's intellectual property rights in development of the textile and weaving industries. Perspectives were shared by a master weaver from Oecusse, Timor Aid, Alola Foundation, the Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, National Commission for UNESCO, National Directorate of Culture (Ministry of Education) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The discussion highlighted the relevance of weaving for women's economic livelihoods, and the risk of the practice decreasing if young people do not learn the craft; the government efforts taken to promote the industry's development; the need to better connect efforts to promote *tais* produced by locally sourced materials with natural resource management and conservation practices, and the importance of continued joint dialogue to raise common understanding of the issues

related to women's intellectual property rights.

The panel discussion was followed by [the opening of a tais exhibition, curated by Timor Aid](#), at the Resistance Archives and Museum in Dili, facilitating public access to information and viewing of diverse traditional *tais* from different municipalities produced by senior weavers, raising awareness of women's role in the industry and its cultural value for promoting Timor-Leste's national identity.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Mari Alkatiri, noted the importance of the weaving industry in his remarks during the 10 March Solidarity event, calling for recognition of women weaver's and their rights as the creators of *tais*.

From Where I Stand: Joana Bobo Tanu



Joana Bobo Tanu is a master weaver from the enclave of Oecusse, Timor-Leste. From 2007, she has collaborated with the non-governmental organization Timor Aid as a weaver coordinator. She works with communities of women who weave to provide literacy, advocacy and capacity development on preserving the weaving tradition as Timor-Leste journeys towards peace and prosperity. Following her experience receiving Timor Aid's training for weavers, she founded the weaving group Feto Fitun Fronteira (Women Stars at the Border) in 2012. Photo: ©Felix Maia/UN Women 2018

I came across weaving because *tais* has been our culture for a long time. Also, I have shaped my identity through *tais*. Personally, I loved weaving as soon as I saw my mother weave. My grandmother was also a weaver. While growing up, I started to learn how to weave from my mother, which means that my mother had the biggest influence on me becoming a weaver.

Unfortunately, however, I've faced difficulties preserving our culture. As we finish weaving, we are likely to sell the *tais* in the market. However, there are not many people willing to buy it anymore. This has an impact on my life since we earn money to support our families. Weaving means a lot in my life. Another problem is that there are not enough places to sell it.

In terms of the materials that I need to make *tais*, I love both chemical and natural dyes, but some issues need to be addressed.

Currently, there are so many *tais* in the market, but most of them have been produced with chemical dyes. I would say our *tais* will disappear in the future if we don't come up with a solution. If there are more *tais* produced with chemical dyes only, weavers using natural materials are going to stop their activities.

If I stop weaving, our tradition will be lost.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Government to pay attention to this. I'm afraid we will lose our culture in the future because of *tais* being produced with chemical dyes or in the factories. I think we should continue weaving so that we can pass it to the next generation. If I stop weaving, our tradition will be lost.

Engendering Conflict Transformation and Monitoring



©NGO Belun 2018

Dili -- From 21-22 March, 2018, 56 community conflict monitors of the national NGO Belun from nine municipalities, and three representatives from Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Social Solidarity (14 women and 42 men) learned how to better support survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and gained strengthened understanding of conflict transformation, gender analysis, gender-based violence.

[The training was jointly organized with UNDP, with generous support from the Governments of Japan, and the European Union](#) . The monitors received a refresher training on conflict and analysis, looking more closely at the gender dimensions of conflict. National NGO Ba Futuru facilitated discussion on the root causes of GBV in the community, and a briefing on the Law Against Domestic Violence.

The training was organized in preparation for the early elections, where NGO Belun will monitor the campaign (starting 10 April) and report on any incidents of electoral violence for improved attention to the gendered security requirements and equitable processes around the election.

UN Women supported SEIGIS and UPMA to prepare Gender Report 2017



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On 21 of March, 2018, UN Women supported SEIGIS to organize a workshop which builds on similar gains achieved in 2017 on monitoring existing gender commitments in the Country. 32 participants from SEIGIS, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA) under PM's Office, the Center for Advancement and Information of Gender Equality (CPIIG) at the Parliament, National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) and the Ministry of Defense and Security (MDS) gained practical skills on monitoring of gender commitments and their implementation. The 2017 gender report commissioned by UPMA will be presented at the Council of Ministers and submitted to the Parliament by the 8 of June 2018.

This builds on the technical assistance provided by UN Women to UPMA and SEIGIS over the past 3 years on monitoring of gender commitments. Notably, SEIGIS coordinated with MDS, a leading government institution responsible for the coordination of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, as well as with NCRC and the Parliament to conduct this exercise, a step forward from the 2017 exercise done by SEIGIS without line ministry involvement.

"This year is different where we reviewed not only the National Action Plan (NAP) on GBV, but also the NAP 1325, NAP for Child Rights, CEDAW Concluding Observations, etc which then will be compiled into a Gender Report", said **Ana Paula Sequeira, Gender Advisor at UPMA.**

This page is dedicated to activities under the ["Enhancing women's Meaningful Leadership and Participation in State Building and Development in Timor-Leste"](#), project which is generously funded by the Government of Japan.

WATCH: Televised Discussion on Sexual Harassment in Public Administration



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Timor-Leste's Civil Service Commission, as part of [its collaboration with UN Women and the Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion](#), organized a televised discussion on sexual harassment in the public administration, building on the IWD commemoration.

The discussion provided information to raise public awareness about the forms and consequences of workplace sexual harassment, and policies in place, such as the recently launched *'Guidelines on addressing Sexual Harassment in Civil Service'*, developed by the Commission with UN Women's support.

To watch the discussion, see the video on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/2FwQATf>

L-R: Armando da Costa, DG of SEIGIS; Sunita Caminha, UN Women Head of Office, Dr. Faustino Cardoso, President of CSC; RTTL Moderator.

Empower for Change:

Joint UN Project supports enhancing the rights of persons with Disabilities



(Left) Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste, delivers his opening remark.

(Right) Participants during the launch of the project.

Photos: © UN Human Rights Advisers 2018

UN Women, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, and OHCHR through the Human Rights Adviser's Unit in the Resident Coordinator's Office, and WHO launched the **'Empower for Change'** project focused on reducing violence and discrimination against women and children with disabilities in Timor-Leste. The Project will be implemented from 2018-2020, with support from the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As part of the inception phase, the UN team convened key stakeholders from civil society and Government working with and including persons with disabilities on 9 February to present the project vision towards reducing harmful attitudes that perpetuate tolerance of gendered discrimination against persons with disabilities, and strengthening the capacity of organizations and State institutions for implementing obligations and monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities.

RESOURCES ON GENDER EQUALITY

Comission on the Status of Women 62nd (2018)



The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018 where representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session.

In this session, the CSW reviewed the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women. The outcome of the Commission's consideration of the priority theme during its 62nd session takes the form of Agreed Conclusions, negotiated by all Member States.

The Commission on the Status of Women adopted Agreed Conclusions on ["Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls"](#) on 23 March 2018.

Monitoring Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations



This is a report that was developed by Secretary of State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SEIGIS), with support from UN Women, on the implementation of the 2015 Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee.

The publication was developed based on the 2016 annual reports submitted by line Ministries to the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister.

The report is in *Tetun* and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN Women's new flagship report, provides a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender perspective.

The report monitors global and regional trends in achieving the SDGs for women and girls based on available data, and provides practical guidance for the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes. As a source of high-quality data and policy analysis, the report is a key reference and accountability tool for policymakers, women's organizations, the UN system, and other stakeholders.

Please follow [this link](#) for more information on the report



UN WOMEN TRAINING CENTRE Catalogue 2018



The UN Women Training Centre is the training arm of UN Women, dedicated to supporting the UN and other stakeholders to realize commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights through transformative training and learning. Its vision is to be the leading UN Centre that contributes, through training for gender equality, to building a society that respects and promotes human rights for all women and men.

Download the 2018 catalogue via this [link](#)

IN MEMORY: Filomena Fuca (10/7/1982 -- 28/3/2018)



“As a transformative leader for gender equality, I prefer the more democratic style which means that, listening to other people’s ideas, thoughts to work together toward common interest. We also need to have courage, like my hero Maria Taupó”.

--Mena Fuca, 2017--

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Operating in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women Office for Timor-Leste focuses on ensuring gender equality and rights-based approach for ending violence against women, women's participation in peace and security, women's economic empowerment that can unlock progress across the board.

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