



PARLAMENTO NACIONAL

República Democrática de Timor-Leste
Gabinete do Presidente
Rua de Formosa, Díli Timor-Leste
tel (670) 333 98 56 | fax (670) 332 98 51

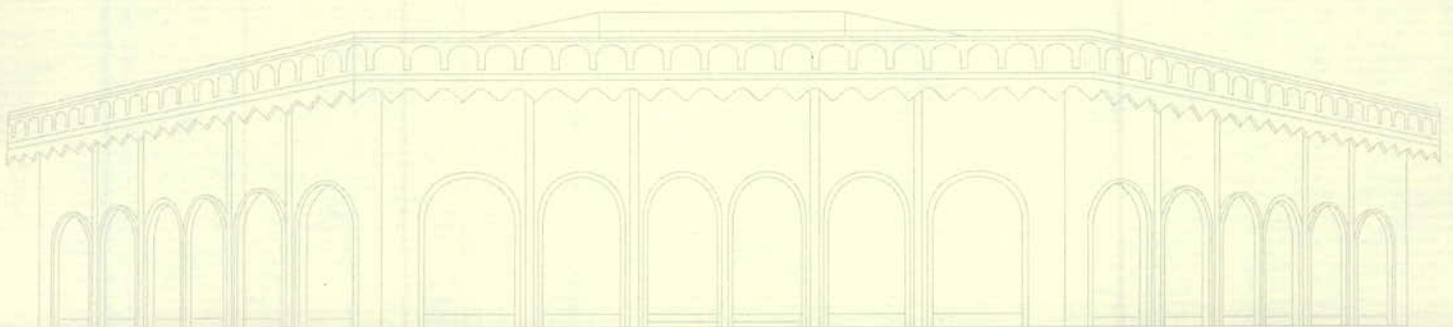
**Brief remarks by His Excellency
the President of the National Parliament
Arão Noé de Jesus da Costa Amaral
140th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Doha, Qatar, 6-10 April 2019**

Your Excellency Madam President of the IPU, Gabriela Cuevas,
Your Excellency Secretary-General of the IPU, Martin Chungong,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

What underlies the relationship between education, peace and human rights is centered on the idea of *respect for difference* and *diversity* as part of the human experience lived in schools and in everyday life. Schools and their teachers are essential protagonists for Human Rights to be known and respected in order to contribute to the achievement of Peace.

It is up to the political agents to stand up for the awareness and acceptance of specific values and concepts related to human rights in order to pursue the path of Peace.

The Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace of 1984 proclaims that the peoples have a sacred right to peace and that the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State, that must adopt appropriate measures at both the national and the international level.





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It is the responsibility of the State to promote and facilitate the teaching of human rights and fundamental freedoms, at all levels of education, and to ensure that all those responsible in their training include appropriate elements of human rights education in their programs.

And education is a lifelong learning that is not confined to school but happens in all public spaces.

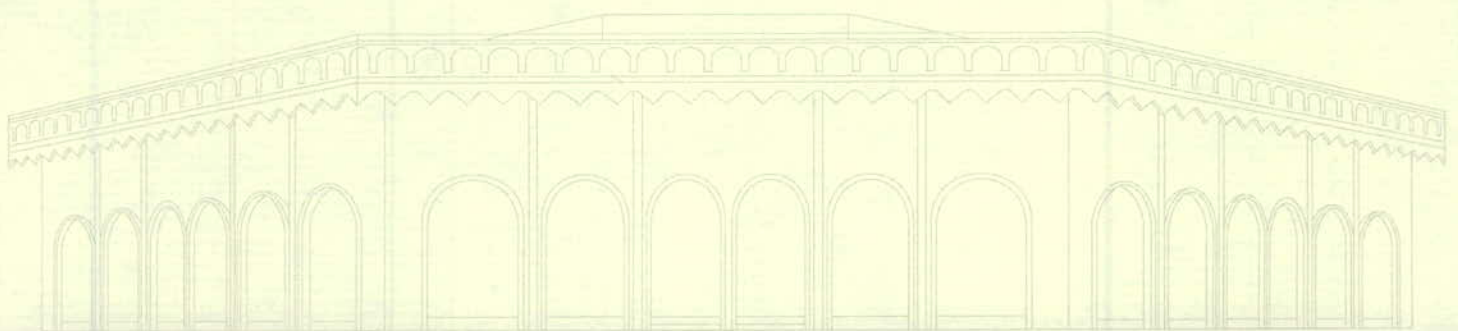
Madam President,

The clash between representative and participatory democracy is old and has taken on new proportions due to the greater social complexity arising from the new information and communication technology.

Parliamentarians must accept this change, in the process of representation for greater political efficiency, in view of the concepts of political participation and transparency as means capable of reducing democratic deficits: strengthening citizenship; consolidating and reinforcing a society of rights, that is, a political community organized as a state under the rule of law.

The simple publication of information and documents in any technological format that allows for easy reading and analysis fits the basic transparency vision.

Parliaments should contribute greatly to increasing the transparency of the legislative process on several fronts: by publishing information in any format on their websites; by making open data available; by carrying out civic actions or





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through open forums to discuss legislative proposals that may be considered in the drafting of laws.

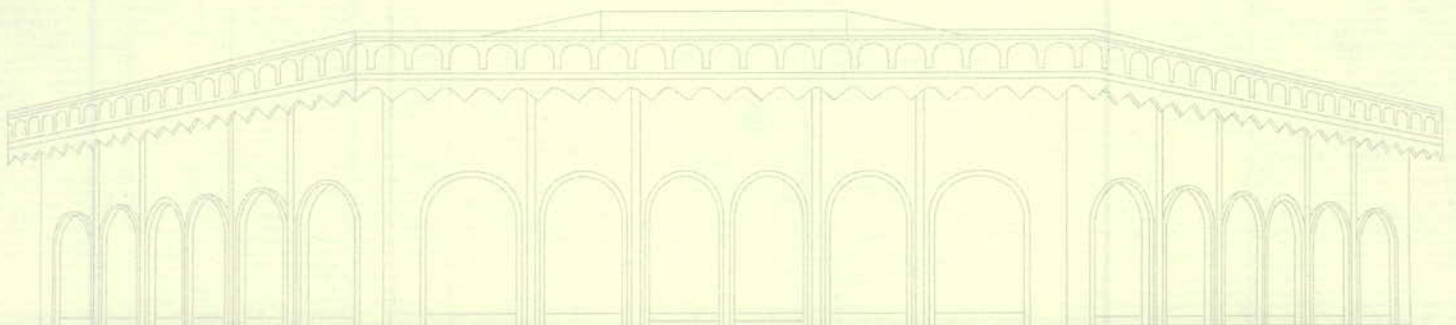
The Open Parliament interactively promotes comprehensive education and fosters understanding, tolerance, respect for human dignity and citizenship in dealing with issues such as the monitoring of public policies focused on gender issues, denouncing of violence against women and of other topics considered by non-governmental organizations, trade unions, local communities, religious groups and fringes of society that, when brought to the debate, will improve education for peace, security and the rule of law.

The Open Parliament can contribute to reducing democratic deficits, and to the improvement of representative democracy.

Madam President and Distinguished Delegates,

The National Parliament of Timor-Leste in its 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, through the *Ita-Nia Parlamento* (Our Parliament) Program, aims to be a more inclusive and transparent institution, open to the participation of all and supporting the fulfillment of citizens' aspirations to a democratic and prosperous society, inspired by the values of mutual respect, equality and solidarity.

To implement the *Lian Povo* (People's Voice) Initiative, the Parliament will take on the responsibility of helping Members of Parliament and civil society to draft proposals for policies and bills.





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Under this initiative, it will be possible for everyone to participate in the Parliament's policy-making work in order to better reflect their needs and contribute to the country's development.

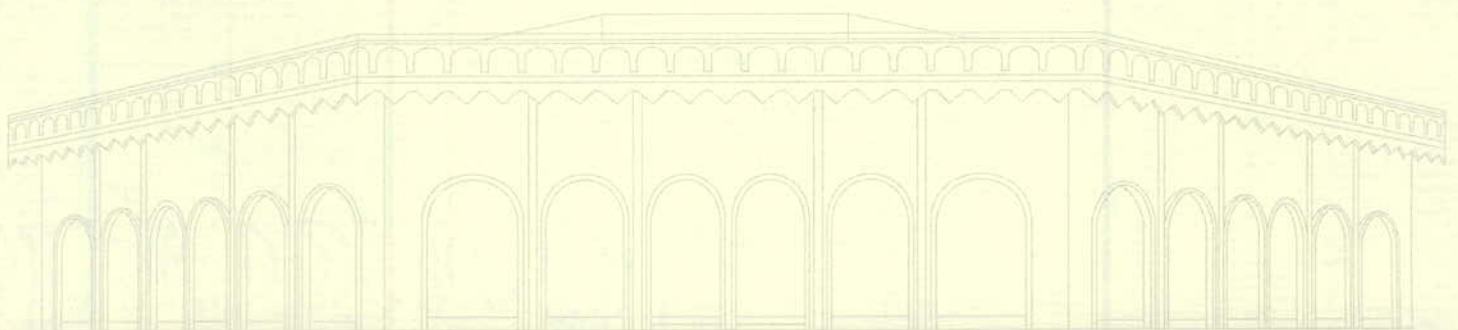
Timor-Leste has a Strategic Development Plan investing up to 2030 in all the children of the country's 442 counties who will have access to pre-school education facilities or classrooms within a reasonably short distance from their homes, and all people above normal schooling age or who did not go to school will have the opportunity to access and complete basic and secondary education.

In Government Resolution n^{er}18/2017 of April 12th, Timor-Leste recognized that in 15 years our country increased its number of students by 150 thousand, from 238 to 391.6 thousand, which means an increase of 64% of the student population in this period. By 2016, Timor-Leste had 1,715 pre-school, primary and secondary education institutions, an increase of 772 (82% more) comparing to the 943 that existed in the 2001 school year.

This education for inclusion has a specific focus on those living in poverty and in remote areas, those belonging to various ethnolinguistic groups, pregnant girls, young mothers and working children.

Timor-Leste has been holding the Peace Run which promotes peace through sports activities, uniting people from different cultures and lifestyles in a global event.

Timor-Leste is part of the G7+, an international and intergovernmental organization that facilitates the sharing of lessons and good practices on Peacebuilding among





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states that have lived in conflict or post-conflict situations, recognizing that development is the next stage for these fragile states.

Finally, I would like to quote the Declaration on the Culture of Peace, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13/09/1999, which says that "*wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the human mind that we must build peace*".

Thank you very much.

