

UPDATE: Timor-Leste Roundtable

by Annie SERRANO, UNDP Timor-Leste

A Roundtable Discussion was organized on the 4th March 2011, to discuss the Roles of Legal Actors in implementing the Law Against Domestic Violence (LAW NO. 7/2010 of 7 of July 2010) in Timor-Leste. The event was convened by the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality In cooperation with The Prosecutor General and Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ).

The roundtable meeting is an initial activity in a series of consultations resulting from advocacy by the working group on UN SCR 1325 (or the Timor-Leste members of N-PEACE network. The final output from these consultations is anticipated to be a National Action Plan on UN SCR 1325 which, per the decision of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, will be part of the National Action Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence.

Objective:

To ensure access to justice for victims/survivors of domestic violence. A concrete step in this direction is to produce the necessary rules and procedures for the legal system in order that it can effectively and efficiently carry out its obligations under the Law Against Domestic Violence. The Roundtable discussion is a step in the direction of completing:

(a) the rules and regulation for the implementation of the Law, (b) the key obligations or responsibilities of each and every legal actor and how they should link up and coordinate with related sectors like health and social solidarity, and (c) the capacity development plan for relevant institutions and actors.

Participants:

The participants included institutions comprising the security and justice sectors, namely PNTL, Office of the Prosecutor, Public Defender, District

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Annie Serrano is the Senior Gender Advisor at the UNDP office in Timor-Leste. Annie is part of the core group present in Bangkok in 2010 when the N-Peace network was launched.

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Courts and the Court of Appeal. Government ministries on related sectors like health, education and social solidarity, as well as civil society organizations particularly the members of the National Referral Network on Sexual and Gender Based Violence will also be participating, as well as the Commission on Human Rights (PDHJ). International organizations such as the United Nations and bilateral partners of RDTL were invited as observers and resource persons.

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