

Annex II

Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

Name and first name: PIRES, Maria Helena Lopes de Jesus
Date and place of birth: 19 June 1966, Dili, Timor-Leste
Working languages: English, Portuguese, Tetum, rudimentary Spanish and French
Current position/function: **Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice Prime Minister**

Main professional activities.:

- **Planning and Management of Policy Development on Administrative Reform (Current)**

As the Advisor to the Vice Prime Minister in charge of the Management of the State Administration, Mme. Pires is responsible for planning, prioritizing and managing policy development for administrative reform within the Timorese public service. She coordinates the development of policy proposals from different government ministries and agencies aimed developing and strengthening the accountability framework for the respective institutions.

- **Civil Society Strengthening Specialist, *Justice Facility Program*, The Asia Foundation, Timor-Leste (2008 – 2009)**

Focused on the engagement of civil society in the improvement of access to justice for citizens, including a special focus on the need for women's access to justice.

- **Coordinator of the Justice Sector Report for the State of the Nation Report (2007 – 2008)**

Responsible for the coordination of the elaboration of the Justice Sector component of Timor-Leste's State of the Nation Report 2008.

- **Country Programme Coordinator, UNIFEM (2002 – 2007)**

Responsible for re-establishing the UNIFEM Office in Timor-Leste, as well as the development and management of the implementation country programmes

- **Media Specialist, Ministry of Education**

- **Member of the Constituent Assembly (2001 – 2002)**

As a member of the Constituent Assembly which was tasked to draft the Constitution of Timor-Leste, Mme. Pires was an advocate a Constitution which contains sufficient provisions to the respects and protection of the rights of women to participation in political decision. In order to achieve that, Mme. Pires was among the members of the Constituent who pushed for a more consultative process for the elaboration of the draft constitution, and for strong constitutional provisions to protect and promote the rights of women.

- **Asia Policy Officer, Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR)**

- **Counsellor for survivors of torture and trauma**

Educational background:

Bachelor of Arts with double majors in Sociology and English Literature and minor in Politics

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- UNIFEM National Advocate Against Violence Against Women
- Founding member of REDE Feto, Network of Timorese Women organizations
- Founding member of the Social Democratic Party (PSD)
- Member of the consultative group to the Office of the Advisor to the Prime Minister for the Promotion of Equality. In this capacity, Mme. Pires contribute to the preparation of Timor-Leste's Initial Report for CEDAW.
- Member of the Consultative Group to the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality
- Member of the Board of the Aloia Foundation, local NGO working on human rights of women
- Member of the Board of PRADET, NGO providing mental health services
- In her capacity as the Advisor to the Vice Prime Minister, Mme. Pires is responsible for the elaboration of policies for the implementation of the General Comments and Recommendations of the CEDAW Committee as they relate to the management of the state administration
- Actively promoting human rights of women by addressing workshops, seminars and conference at the national level. Special emphasis is placed on women's participation in political decision making, which in her view is crucial for enhancing human participation in other fields of social and economic lives.

List of Publication

1. Working Towards Women's Rights in Timor-Leste: The Launch of "Women, War and Peace" and the Visit to the Village of Mauxiga', in *Viva Timor-Leste!* Volume II, Public Information Office of UNMISSET, Dili, 2005, pp. 76–77.
2. Enhancing Women's Participation in Electoral Processes in Post Conflict Countries: Experiences from East Timor', Enhancing Women's Participation in Electoral Process in Post-Conflict Countries Expert Group Meeting, United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Glen Cove, 19–22 January 2004.
3. East Timor and the Debate on Quotas', Presentation to *Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Quotas*, International IDEA, Jakarta, September 2002.