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Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Graça Andresen Guimarães  
Permanent Representative of Portugal

13<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
Brazil

Madame President,

Let us start by extending a very warm welcome to the delegation of Brazil, (a brother country with whom we share deep historical and cultural links), led by HE Maria do Rosário Nunes, State Minister of the Human Rights Secretariat of State, and thank her for the presentation of Brazil's excellent UPR National Report.

Portugal commends the extraordinary progress achieved by Brazil in recent years in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in the field of economical, social and cultural rights. Over the past decade, Brazil has been an inspiration for us all for its internationally acclaimed public policies to combat poverty and to eradicate extreme poverty.

In this regard, we praise the recent launching of the Brazil without Poverty Plan (BSM) and would like to ask if the delegation of Brazil could elaborate further on the concrete results achieved on the ground by this comprehensive, holistic and innovative social programme of poverty eradication, indeed the fundamental pillar of human development?

Madame President,

Portugal has 3 recommendations:

We would like to recommend that Brazil sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economical, Social and Cultural Rights.

According to reports and despite recent progress achieved on combating domestic violence, its levels remain high, so we would like to recommend that the Brazilian Government increases its efforts to fully implement the

Maria da Penha Law regarding the rights of women victims of domestic violence.

Finally, we would like to recommend that Brazil gives further impetus to the creation of a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles

I thank you