



**MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS**  
DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA EXTERNA

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

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

Madame President,

Let me start by thanking the Finnish delegation for the presentation of its excellent UPR report that clearly focuses not only on the general national human rights situation but also on the recommendations put forward in the previous UPR cycle.

Portugal commends Finland's commitment to the promotion and realization of human rights and would like to enquire about the state of play concerning the First Finnish National Human Rights Action Plan, following the latest discussions by the Government in March.

Portugal also notes with appreciation the establishment of a Finnish National Human Rights Institution, according to the Paris Principles, and would like to know if it is now currently operational.

Madam President,

Portugal welcomes Finland's firm determination to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination. Nonetheless; we recommend that Finland further increases its efforts to combat these worrying phenomena, including hate speech on the internet. We would also like to encourage Finland to continue to strive towards the integration of Roma and immigrants.

We are also concerned with the high incidence of violence against women. We welcome the adoption in 2010 of a National Action Plan, based on a comprehensive approach to this phenomenon and encourage Finland to complete its institutional framework and intensify its implementation.

We welcome Finland's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children earlier this year in February. On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we recommend that Finland expedites the ongoing internal proceedings

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and ratifies the UN Convention and its Optional Protocol enabling individual complaints.

I thank you