

Conselheiro Pedro Rodrigues da Silva

Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Graça Andressen Guimarães
Permanent Representative of Portugal
13th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
India

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Madame President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of India, headed by His Excellency Mr. Goolam E. Vahanvati, Attorney General for India and thank him for the presentation of India's National Report.

Madame President,

Portugal welcomes the expansion of the list of banned and hazardous processes and occupations of the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986, since India's last review. However further efforts are needed to tackle this violation of the rights of the child. In this regard we would like to recommend that India continues to take legislative as well as policy measures to combat child labour and to ratify the ILO Conventions No. 138 (Minimum Age for the Admission to Employment) and No. 182 (Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor).

We welcome the de facto moratorium on executions, in place since 2004, and recommend that India considers adhering to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Finally, we would like to recommend that India signs the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol and ratifies the Convention on Enforced Disappearances.

Portugal recognises legislative and institutional progress realised thus far and encourages India to maintain its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you