



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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

14th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Argentina

Madame President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Argentina and thanking HE _____, the distinguished _____, for the presentation of the National Report.

Portugal commends Argentina for the progress made since the 2008 Universal Periodic Review on several of the recommendations put forward by this Working Group.

Argentina's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights is reflected in the recent ratification of human rights instruments. Portugal would like to welcome warmly the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, in September 2008, and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in October 2011.

A similar degree of commitment will be much appreciated regarding international humanitarian law instruments and we recommend that Argentina ratifies the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Having closely studied Argentina's national report, we understand that some challenges remain. We would like to focus our attention on the human rights of women and children.

Portugal hopes that closing the gap between legislation and reality on human rights of women will continue to be a priority. In this regard we welcome the



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adoption of the 2009 Violence against Women Act and recommend that priority is now given to the formulation and implementation of the envisaged Nation Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against women and the Punishment of Aggressors.

Portugal congratulates Argentina on the progress made on rights of the child legislation and recommends that it is thoroughly transposed to the provincial level and implemented. We would also recommend that Argentina ratifies the new optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We would also recommend that more is done in the field of prevention of child trafficking, sexual exploitation of children, sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

In closing, Portugal would like to ask whether the Argentinean authorities consulted with civil society when preparing this National Report? And if not, we would recommend that in future occasions Argentina involves civil society in this exercise.

Thank-you Madam President.