

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

14th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Ghana

Madame President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Ghana and thanking H.E. Mr. Ebo Odro, Vice-Minister of Justice for the presentation of the National Report.

Portugal welcomes the recent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Ghana's cooperation with the UN human rights system.

Madame President,

Harmful traditional and cultural practices, discriminatory laws and lack of implementation of other laws are root causes of discrimination and human rights violations. In this regard and in order to continue improving its human rights situation, Portugal recommends that Ghana:

[a. allocates more resources to allow for the effective implementation of the National Policy Guidelines on Orphans and other Children affected by HIV/AIDS and adopts measures to combat discrimination towards HIV-affected persons;]

a.abolishes all discriminatory legal provisions towards women and increases its efforts in combating all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, wife beating, child and other forced marriages, and Female Genital Mutilation;

c.ensures the realization, without discrimination, of the right to education for all, [including the development of information campaigns in schools and communities on sexual education and family planning aimed at preventing sexually transmittable diseases, reducing teenage pregnancies, the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity and the cases of obstetric fistula;]

d.criminalises and punishes the practice of acts of racial discrimination;

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e.adopts proactive measures at all levels to combat violence, stigmatization and discrimination towards persons on the basis of their sexual orientation;

Madame President,

Portugal would like to further recommend that Ghana:

- a. abolishes death penalty and ratifies the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- b. prohibits all forms of corporal punishment of children and ratifies the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Thank you.