



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
Ukraine

Madame President,

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

Portugal welcomes of the measures taken by the Ukraine since the 2008 Universal Periodic Review in implementing the recommendations put forward by this Working Group. We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to further enhance their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

We would therefore like to recommend that Ukraine make the necessary constitutional changes in order to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Code, signed in January 2000.

Portugal would also like to recommend that Ukraine adopts a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that addresses the worrying trend of incidents based on gender, sexual-orientation, racial and ethnic discrimination.

We remain concerned about cases of torture and ill-treatment in police custody and recommend that the Ukraine takes the necessary steps to ensure that all allegations of mistreatment are impartially investigated.

On the rights of the child, Portugal welcomes the news that the Ukrainian Parliament has adopted the Act on the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and would like to enquire if the President has signed this Act?



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We recommend that a clear definition of child pornography is introduced into national legislation.

We welcome the adoption of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and encourage the Ukrainian authorities to focus on its implementation. We also recommend that adequate training on this new instrument is given to all those involved in the fight against human trafficking, especially border guards.

Madam President,

Allow me to finish by recommending that the Ukraine ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I thank you Madame President