



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Bahamas

Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Bahamas lead by HE _____, the _____, and thank him for the presentation of the National Report. A report that recognises the areas of progress but does not shy away from presenting the remaining challenges.

Portugal commends the progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, reflected in the 2008 ratification of both Covenants and the signature of the Convention against Torture as well as the withdrawal of the reservation to Article 16 (1) of CEDAW which calls for equal property rights for both spouses. We recommend that the Bahamas continue on this very positive track and ratifies CAT as well as the CRPD.

Mr. President,

Portugal firmly believes that the death penalty is incompatible with human dignity which is inherent to every human being and that there is no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value. In the first UPR cycle the Bahamas have rejected the recommendation to abolish the death penalty, we recommend that the de facto moratorium is translated into a formal moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, that the Bahamas sign and ratify ICCPR's second protocol and that all death sentences are commuted without delay to terms of imprisonment.

Mr. President,

We note that during the first cycle the Government of Bahamas has stated its intention to repeal laws authorising judicial corporal punishment but rejected recommendations to end corporal punishment in the home and



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schools. In this regard, we would kindly request the delegation to share steps taken to ensure children's human right to protection in law from all corporal punishment and we recommend that enactment of legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Mr. President,

We welcome the recent measures undertaken by the Bahamas to tackle violence against women and would like to recommend the inclusion of gender as a basis for protection from discrimination. We would also like to recommend the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the root causes of violence against women.

I thank you Mr. President