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51

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

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Luxemburg (24/1)

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Luxemburg lead by HE _____, the _____, and thank him/her for the presentation of the National Report.

Portugal commends Luxemburg's national and international commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Having closely studied its national report, we congratulate Luxemburg for the progress the progress made on several of the recommendations put forward by States and non-governmental organizations since the first Universal Periodic Review.

Mr President,

We would like to focus our attention on the issue of equality and non-discrimination.

Portugal recognizes Luxembourg's persistent efforts combat all forms of discrimination and related intolerance and welcomes positive developments that have occurred since the last UPR cycle.

We particularly welcome measures that are being taken to reduce the school drop-out rate and level of exclusion of school children and students of foreign origin. Given the high number of Portuguese citizens that live in Luxembourg, we would also like to commend Luxembourg for efforts under-taken to enable foreign-language children to keep in touch with their mother tongue while learning Luxemburgish, French and German. We would like to recommend that this multi-lingual approach is further developed.



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Given the progress in this field, we would like to encourage Luxemburg to submit its delayed national reports to the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Mr. President,

Portugal would like to recommend that Luxembourg ratifies the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In closing, I would to enquire whether when preparing this report the Luxemburgish authorities consulted civil society?

I thank you