

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

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Mali

Mister President,

Portugal extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Mali lead by -----
--, and thank him/her for the presentation of the very comprehensive UPR
National Report.

Allow me to start by expressing our deep condemnation for the attacks from
terrorist movements based in the North that are jeopardizing the country's
territorial integrity and safety of its population.

Portugal calls on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and
human rights. It is our firm belief that all those responsible for human rights
violations and abuses must be held accountable for their acts.

Mr President,

We hope that peace and stability will be speedily restored in Mali. We also hope
that further efforts will be made by the Malian authorities to address the
challenges faced in the field of human rights.

In this regard, Portugal would like to formulate the following recommendations:

1. That legislation is urgently adopted to ban Female Genital Mutilation.
2. That the Malian Parliament speeds up its internal procedures towards the
approval of the draft bill to abolish the death penalty;
3. That Mali issues a standing invitation to all special procedures of the
Human Rights Council ;
4. Lastly, that Mali ratifies the Optional Protocol of the International
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

I thank you