



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
Serbia (30/1)

Thank you Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the adoption of the General Protocol on Child Protection from Abuse and Neglect and the ongoing discussion of a comprehensive draft child rights law, and recommend its swift adoption. We also recommend that the law which will be adopted forbids corporal punishment of children in all settings, which is currently still legal in the home and in alternative care.

Portugal welcomes the recent fine-tuning of Serbian legislation provisions against sexual exploitation of children. We recommend that Serbia brings the legislation fully in conformity with the principles and provisions of the CRC, the Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention against Cybercrime and Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. In this context, we also recommend the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Mr. President,

We recognize the Serbian authorities' efforts in the fight against trafficking in Human beings and the protection of victims, including the adoption of a protocol by the Ministry of Justice on the treatment of trafficking victims and the drafting of the new national strategy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims. We recommend the swift implementation of this protocol as well as the adoption of the new national strategy.



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

The high number of girls among identified victims of trafficking in the last years is worrying. In this regard, we recommend the establishment of specialized shelters for children victims of human trafficking.

To conclude, Mr. President we would like to kindly inquire which steps the Serbian authorities have taken to bring its definition of torture into line with the Convention Against Torture?

I thank you