



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
United Arab Emirates (28/1)

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of the United Arab Emirates lead by H.E Dr. Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and thank him for the presentation of the UAE's excellent National Report.

Portugal commends the United Arab Emirates' national and international commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and for the significant progress has been made since the first UPR cycle. The Strategic Plan to combat human trafficking and the programme of assistance for victims of human trafficking are but a couple of examples of this progress.

Mr. President,

We particularly welcome the United Arab Emirates' commitment to the realization of women's rights and to the empowerment of women. The National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2013-2017), covering important areas such as health, education or political participation of women is a significant development.

Portugal praises the UAE for the recent ratification of the Convention against Torture (CAT). Portugal would like to recommend that the UAE continues on this positive track and considers acceding to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including the ICCPR's second protocol, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Thank you.