



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

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

16th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
Bangladesh

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh lead by HE Ms. Dipu Moni, the Foreign Minister and thanks her for the presentation of the UPR National Report. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences for the tragic loss of lives in Savar.

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the noteworthy progress made by Bangladesh in achieving some key gender and health related MDGs.

We also welcome the cooperation with UNDP for capacity building in the field of treaty body reporting and recommend the presentation of the initial report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as a matter of priority. In this regard we would also like to recommend that Bangladesh signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.

Portugal opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and would therefore like to recommend that Bangladesh establishes a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition, and signs and ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Mr. President,

Portugal attaches great importance to the realization of the right to education, and in this regard we would like to recommend that Bangladesh signs and ratifies the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.

We welcome that fact that since the 2009 review, the Supreme Court has ruled against corporal punishment in schools and stated that legislation should be reformed to prohibit it in the home and other settings. Therefore we would like to recommend that Bangladesh explicitly prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

I thank you Mr. President.