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Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador Graça Andresen Guimarães

Permanent Representative of Portugal

Ava Brito  
Flawira

16<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
*Canada*

Mr. President,

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

Portugal commends Canada for its firm commitment to the protection and  
promotion of human rights, as well as its historic commitment to the values  
of freedom and democracy. A significant number of Portuguese migrants  
have benefitted from Canada's generous immigration system and in turn  
now contribute actively to Canada's diverse and prosperous society.

We commend Canada for the measures taken since its first UPR to increase  
awareness of human rights and implementation efforts. Nonetheless, we  
note that some UN Treaty Bodies remain concerned that their  
recommendations are not being fully implemented. We therefore reiterate  
our recommendation to Canada to analyze each of these recommendations -  
in close cooperation with civil society, including indigenous people - to  
implement them or to report publicly on the reasons why it considers their  
implementation not appropriate. We also recommend that Canada continue  
to cooperate fully with all UN human rights bodies and experts.

We commend Canada for ratifying Convention on the Rights of Persons  
with Disabilities. We would like to recommend that Canada also ratify the  
following human rights treaties: the Optional Protocol to the International  
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol  
to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading  
Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on  
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Portugal commends Canada for its commitment to combat all forms of  
violence against women and children and for publicly acknowledging that  
much remains to be done. We recommend that Canada consider adopting a



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comprehensive National Action Plan to address the issue of on Violence against Women, including violence against indigenous women.

In closing, I would like to whether further consideration has been given to the possibility of international human rights treaties being directly applicable in Canada?

I thank you Mr. President.