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

16<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
Cape Verde

Mister President,

Let us start by extending a very warm welcome to the delegation of Cabo Verde, (a brother country with whom we share deep historical, cultural and affective links), led by HE the Minister of Justice, Mr José Carlos Correia, and thank him for the presentation of Cape Verde's comprehensive National Report to the second cycle of the UPR, which well reflects the high degree of fulfillment of the recommendations formulated in its first cycle.

Portugal has the highest appreciation for the extraordinary progresses achieved by Cape Verde over the last decades in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in the field of economical, social and cultural rights, which converted the country in a true inspirational example of good practices for its region and the world.

Recognizing the significant progresses realized by Cape Verde in the promotion and protection of women's rights, domestic violence remains nevertheless a persistent problematic, so we would like to know what additional public measures the Government is eventually considering to take to strengthen the combat of this phenomena.

In the framework of the special protection due to handicapped children and under the provisions of the Law for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Handicapped Persons, currently under review, we would like to be provided with complementary information about measures the Government eventually intends to adopt to support, in a more effective manner, the children with cerebral paralysis.

Mister President,

Within this context, Portugal would like to formulate 3 recommendations:

- that Cape Verde ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economical, Social and Cultural Rights;

- that further impetus be given to the approval by the Parliament of the new statutes of the National Committee for Human Rights and Citizenship, CNDHC, in accordance with the Paris Principles for the national human rights institutions;

- and, finally, that Cape Verde considers to, in a brief delay, to issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you