



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo
Permanent Representative of Portugal
17th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Israel

Thank you, Mr. President.

Portugal would like to thank the Delegation of Israel for the presentation of its national Universal Periodic Report reflecting progress achieved on human rights issues since its first UPR in 2008.

Portugal appreciates the opportunity to have a frank and open discussion with Israel. We note the fact that Israel only presented its national written report yesterday, not allowing for a thorough study of the Government's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

We would like to highlight the Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2012 as one example of Israel's commitment to human rights issues.

Nonetheless, despite Israel's good practice on a number of human rights fields, areas of concern remain.

We are concerned about instances of discrimination and inequality in Israel, namely persistent distinction between Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens, discrimination of women, stigmatization of migrants, unequal pay for work of equal value, obstacles to employment for the Arab Israeli population. We would therefore recommend that Israel increase its efforts to implement the recommendations of the Treaty bodies on equality and non discrimination.

Israel has systematically sponsored the UN General Assembly Resolution on a moratorium on the use of the Death penalty. Therefore, Portugal would like to recommend that Israel ratifies the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

We also recommend that Israel effectively bans torture in all its forms and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Furthermore, Portugal would like to recommend that Israel signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.



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Last but not least, we would like to recommend that Israel fully respects international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Thank you, Mr. President