



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
Malta

Mr. President,

Portugal thanks the delegation of Malta for the presentation of Malta's national UPR report which highlights the Government's firm commitment to the highest standards of Human Rights.

Portugal welcomes the far-reaching measures adopted by Malta in order to ensure gender equality and non-discrimination against women in society, namely through the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality. We also welcome the Maltese Government's "zero" tolerance approach to violence against women and to domestic violence. Portugal encourages Malta to continue to take measures in this regard and recommends that Malta ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without reservations

Portugal warmly commends the continuous and enormous efforts of the Maltese Government to enhance the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. In that context, Portugal would like to refer to the particular situation of children and unaccompanied minors and recommend that Malta continues to address the specific needs of these children in this regard.

In closing, Portugal would like to recommend that Malta ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr President