



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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

Mr. President,

Portugal would like to thank the delegation of Mexico for the presentation of Mexico's national UPR report which highlights the Government's firm commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country.

I would like to address some of the recommendations conveyed by Portugal to Mexico in 2009. We warmly welcome measures adopted in order to prevent acts of torture and ill treatment, namely the revision currently being undertaken of the Act on Prevention and Punishment of Torture in accordance with the recommendations by the Committee against Torture. In light of Mexico's commitment in this regard, we would like to recommend that the implementation of the existing legislation, both at federal and state level, remains a top priority.

Violence against women is a scourge that has to be addressed in all countries and regions. We welcome the approval of a Federal Law on Gender Violence, the creation of a Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Women and the establishment of "Justice Centres for Women. We would like to recommend the reinforcement of training of police and justice officials in order to improve the response by the Mexican authorities.

We strongly welcome the entry into force in June 2012 of the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Act and the subsequent creation of the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Mechanism. In this regard, we would like to ask how many inquiries and sentences have so far been opened or issued in cases of aggressions and attacks against human rights defenders and journalists.

In closing, Portugal would like to recommend that Mexico 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.

Thank you Mr President.