



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

Nigéria

Mr. President,

Portugal would like to thank the Delegation of Nigeria for the presentation of the Nigeria's national UPR report which shows that progress has been made on human rights issues.

In 2009, Portugal recommended that the Nigerian National Human Rights Commission become fully independent of the Government. We are pleased that this Commission regained, in 2011, its 'A' status at the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions.

We also recommended, in 2009, that Nigeria fully investigate abuses by law enforcement officials. While commending Nigeria for having ratified the OP-CAT, we remain seriously concerned that the use of violence and the practice of acts of torture by security forces and law enforcement agents are widespread and mostly unaccounted for. We would like to reiterate our recommendation from 2009 in this regard.

Portugal deeply regrets the execution of four inmates in Edo, on the 24th of June 2013, which marked the end of the de facto moratorium on executions which had been in place in Nigeria since 2006. Portugal attaches great importance to the universal abolition of the death penalty and we recommend that a immediate moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty is established and that Nigeria signs and ratifies the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Portugal would also like to recommend that the Nigeria mainstreams human rights standards in the in counter-terrorism actions undertaken by its security forces.

Portugal would like to recommend that Nigeria adopts effective measures to ensure universal and free access to primary education, without discrimination between girls and boys.

In closing, we recommend that Nigeria 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.