



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS
DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA EXTERNA

Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral
Permanent Mission of Portugal
18th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Comoros

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes to the delegation of Comoros, and thanks them for the presentation of Comoros' national UPR report.

We welcome the adoption of measures to promote gender equality, notably the creation of platforms for women in business, in politics and in sustainable development. Portugal recommends the adoption of a comprehensive law on violence against women, with a particular emphasis on the protection of victims, accountability of perpetrators as well as on awareness-raising to encourage reporting of domestic and sexual violence.

Portugal notes the efforts to ensure the right to education – we recommend taking further measures to reduce the gender disparity in primary and secondary school and address the causes of the high dropout rates of adolescent girls, notably those outlined by the CEDAW Committee in its Concluding observations on the periodic reports of Comoros.

Portugal also recommends the prohibition, by law, of all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment, as well as the establishment of a minimum legal age for marriage.

Portugal notes that there is a *de facto* moratorium on death penalty in Comoros since 1998. We therefore recommend the adoption of a *de jure* moratorium and the ratification of the II Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, with a view to abolition.

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