



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Statement by Manuela Teixeira Pinto
Permanent Representation of Portugal
18th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Cyprus

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus and thank for the presentation of the national UPR report, which highlights the Governments strong commitment to the protection and the promotion of human rights.

Portugal welcomes the Government's commitment to fully implement a National Health Insurance System by 2016 and recommends that Cyprus continues to take steps towards universal access to health services.

Portugal welcomes the efforts to combat domestic violence, in particular the adoption of a comprehensive legislative framework, research on domestic violence and training provided to the police by the Police Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office. We recommend that Cyprus conducts an impact assessment on the implementation of its National Action Plan on Prevention and Handling of Family Violence. We also recommend that Cyprus provides further assistance to women victims of violence, including through cooperation with non-governmental organizations, in line with relevant recommendations of the CEDAW Committee.

Portugal recommends that Cyprus further develops projects for the improvement of relations between different religious and/or ethnic communities, in line with relevant recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief.

Finally, we recommend that Cyprus ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr President.