



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo  
Permanent Representative of Portugal  
18<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

**Dominican Republic**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of the Dominican and thank for the presentation of the national UPR report which highlights the Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country.

Portugal strongly welcomes the appointment in 2013 of the Ombudsman and recommends that the Dominican Republic ensures the full independence of the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles on Independent National Human Rights Institutions.

We welcome Dominican Republic's willingness to consider any request for a country visit by United Nations Rapporteurs and recommend that the country extends an open invitation to the United Nations special procedures.

Portugal takes good note of Dominican Republic's commitment to prepare a process of regularization of illegal migrants as well as a naturalisation procedure following the Constitutional Court's ruling. We encourage the Dominican Republic, in close articulation with Haiti, to ensure that the people's rights are safeguarded and that a situation whereby a significant number of people would find themselves stateless is avoided. We recommend that a special attention is given to children affected by the ruling, ensuring that they aren't deprived of basic rights, such as education, health and protection.

In closing, we recommend that the Dominican Republic ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR; the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR; the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 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.