



**MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS**  
**DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA EXTERNA**

Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral  
Permanent Mission of Portugal  
18<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
**Eritrea**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Eritrea and thanks it for the presentation of Eritrea's national UPR report.

Portugal recommends that Eritrea allow the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea to visit the country, cooperate fully with her and give due consideration to the recommendations contained in her first report. We also recommend that Eritrea cooperates with the OHCHR; allows access to an OHCHR mission to Eritrea, as requested by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and accepts the visit requests made by five special procedures mandate holders.

We further recommend that Eritrea issues a standing invitation to the UN Human Rights Special Procedures.

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the efforts of Eritrea to assist street children and to prevent them from returning to the street. Portugal is concerned with the fact that all children must undertake the final year of schooling in a military training camp, which involves the conscription of children into the military. We recommend that Eritrea abolishes this procedure and fully respects the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

We also recommend that Eritrea signs and ratifies the UN Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the First and Second Optional Protocols to the ICCPR, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you.