



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the internal process towards the accreditation of the Office of the National Ombudsman with "A" status, in accordance with the Paris Principles. We recommend its establishment as an autonomous body under public law and its full use for the protection of Human Rights.

Portugal welcomes the adoption of the Law on the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination and the launch of the Commission for protection against discrimination.

We commend the adoption, in 2010, of the Strategy for Integrated Education. We recommend further steps be taken towards a fully integrated and universally accessible education system, especially for non-majority communities and in their own language.

In closing, Portugal would like to recommend that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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.