



**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  
**SLOVAKIA**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Slovakia and thank it for the presentation of their national UPR report.

Portugal appreciates the efforts made by the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality regarding Human Rights and minority issues. Portugal also welcomes the establishment of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities in June 2012.

Portugal commends Slovakia's efforts to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding. Portugal recommends that Slovakia continues to take measures to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin, in particular against the Roma community.

Portugal would like to ask what measures are envisaged in order to improve non- discrimination of Roma in education? Portugal recommends that further steps are taken in order to review existing policies and practises that lead to segregation of Roma children in schools.

Portugal welcomes the introduction into Slovak legislation of the prohibition of corporal punishment of children and recommends that legislation on the ban of corporal punishment in the exercise of parental rights be approved.

Slovakia's ratification of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention and the adoption of a National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women are clear indications of Slovakia's commitment to combating violence against women

In closing, Portugal commends Slovakia for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.