



**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

**Uruguay**

Mr. President,

Portugal would like to thank H.E. .... for the presentation of Uruguay's national UPR report.

Portugal strongly welcomes the acceptance and implementation of the suggestions we made in 2009 on the following matters: the signing and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR in 2013, the rise in the minimum age of marriage to 16 years of age for both sexes and the mitigation of overcrowding in prisons, achieved through the refurbishment and expansion of existing prisons and construction of new facilities. We therefore recommend that Uruguay continues to take steps to improve the penitentiary system.

Portugal also congratulates Uruguay for the efforts made to reduce poverty and extreme poverty, and recommend that Uruguay takes further steps on this matter.

Portugal welcomes the measures adopted regarding the rights of the child, and would like to ask (1) how is the Uruguayan government assessing the impact of such measures, as well as (2) what measures besides improving budget allocation is the Government taking to improve the public education system in the secondary level.

In conclusion, Portugal recommends that Uruguay strengthens measures to reduce repetition and dropout rates and evaluate the outcome of such measures, as well as to continue to fight child poverty and address issues such as street children, child labour and child trafficking and smuggling.

Thank you Mr President.