



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral
Permanent Mission of Portugal
18th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Vanuatu

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal takes good note of the fact that Vanuatu was the first Pacific country to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008) and the Convention against Torture (2011).

Portugal welcomes Vanuatu's efforts to tackle gender inequalities and recommends that Vanuatu amend its Citizenship Act to avoid discrimination on the basis of sex and mitigates discrimination of women in employment and reducing existing wage gaps.

Vanuatu is particularly vulnerable to climate change and its impact on the effective enjoyment of human rights, a phenomenon addressed in HRC resolution 18/22. Portugal encourages all efforts aimed at mitigating climate change impacts on human rights, in particular those developed by Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change.

In closing, we recommend that Vanuatu signs and ratifies the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr President.