



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
VIETNAM

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Vietnam and thank for the presentation of the national UPR report which highlights the Government's commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country.

Portugal warmly welcomes Vietnam's cooperation with the UN's special procedures since the first UPR cycle.

Portugal would like to recommend that Vietnam establishes an Independent National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Portugal is pleased that reforms regarding the Death Penalty were adopted, namely the 2010 decision to reduce the number of crimes punishable by capital punishment and the non application of the death penalty to juvenile offenders. Portugal recommends that Vietnam continues to work towards abolition and considers adopting an immediate de facto moratorium. We also recommend that Vietnam ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Portugal welcomes Vietnam's continuous efforts to improve socio-economic conditions and the subsequent decrease in poverty rates, greater access to education and healthcare, economic, social and cultural rights. Portugal recommends that Vietnam signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.

In closing, we would like to recommend that Vietnam ratifies the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR; the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you.