

MR. NUNO GABRIEL CABRAL
Statement by His Excellency Ambassador ~~Pedro Nuno Bartolo~~
Permanent Representative of Portugal
19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Brunei Darussalam

67

Mr. President,

Let me start by extending a warm welcome to the delegation of Brunei Darussalam lead by H.E ---, and thank him for the presentation of Brunei's national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes Brunei's cooperation with the United Nations and takes good note of Brunei's efforts, in the legislative, normative and institutional areas, to enhance human rights in the country, namely through its inter-agency consultative mechanism. We recommend that Brunei steps up its cooperation with the United Nations by addressing a standing invitation to special procedures and presents the overdue report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). We also recommend that Brunei reviews its broad reservations to the CRC and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Mr. President,

While acknowledging that no execution has been carried out in Brunei since 1996, Portugal recommends that Brunei abolishes the death penalty and signs and ratifies both Optional Protocols to the ICCPR.

Portugal welcomes Brunei's withdrawal of reservations on paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 2 relating to the protection of a child without a family, as well as paragraph (a) of Article 21 relating to the law on adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and recommends that Brunei signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We are aware that under the Brunei Nationality Act, mothers from Brunei cannot confer their nationality on their children. What measures is Brunei envisaging in order to avoid cases of stateless children?

Finally, Portugal recommends that Brunei ratifies the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Thank you, Mr. President.