

70

Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral  
Permanent Mission of Portugal  
19<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(28 April to 9 May 2014)

**Equatorial Guinea**

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and thanks it for the presentation of Equatorial Guinea's national UPR report.

Mr. President,

We welcome the creation of the Office of the Ombudsman as a consequence of the 2012 reform of the Constitution. We would like to ask Equatorial Guinea if it envisages the accreditation of the Office of the Ombudsman as the National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the UN Paris Principles by the International Coordinating Committee of **NHRIs**.

Portugal welcomes the efforts of Equatorial Guinea in the area of **education** in particular for women and girls. In this regard we welcome the implementation of the National Programme for education of adult, young and adolescent girls. We recommend that Equatorial Guinea carries out awareness raising campaigns, at the community level, to raise awareness to women's and girls' rights and to combat any discriminatory practices towards **women and girls**.

Mr. President,

Portugal recognizes the significant challenges faced by Equatorial Guinea and the particular necessity of improved efforts to fully comply with the obligations emerging from the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, to which Equatorial Guinea is a party since 1987.

Portugal welcomes the announcement of Presidential Resolution 426 of 13 February 2014 and, in this regard, recommends that Equatorial Guinea take further steps towards the total abolition of the **death penalty** and, as a matter of priority, sign and ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Finally, Portugal recommends that Equatorial Guinea sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with **Disabilities** and the **Optional Protocol to the ICESCR**.

Thank you.