

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

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia and thanks it for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the recent adoption of a National Human Rights Action Plan in Ethiopia. Portugal also welcomes the existence of a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty since 2007 in Ethiopia and recommends that Ethiopia abolishes the death penalty and signs and ratifies both Optional Protocols to the ICCPR.

Mr. President,

While welcoming the efforts of the Ethiopian authorities to improve access to safe drinking water in the country, Portugal recommends intensifying those efforts in order to reach universal water coverage as well as signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.

On discrimination, Portugal recommends the adoption of legislative or other measures and awareness raising campaigns to combat and prevent discrimination and societal stigma; in particular against persons with disabilities and persons affected by HIV/AIDS. In this regard we recommend that Ethiopia amends the Penal Code to decriminalize homosexuality.

Finally, Mr. President, Portugal recommends that Ethiopia criminalizes all forms of corporal punishment against children and the signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

I thank you.