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MARCO LAPADURA

Check against delivery

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Portugal  
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Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Portugal and thanks it for its report and today's presentation.

Italy commends Portugal for its remarkable record in the field of promotion and protection of human rights, proved, inter alia, by the recent accession to a number of international conventions on human rights.

Italy notes that the economic crisis and the consequent adoption of severe budgetary measures may have caused some throwbacks in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the most vulnerable children and women. In this regard, Italy **recommends** Portugal to continue prioritizing the adoption of relatively low-cost targeted programmes for the best protection of children's rights. Furthermore, we are interested in knowing more about the concrete measures taken in order to reverse the increasing trend of gender discrimination in salary at work, certified by the OECD statistics.

As to the situation in prisons, Italy **recommends** that Portugal continues strengthening the mechanisms to supervise the observance of human rights of the inmates, with the aim of preventing ill-treatment and handle in a timely manner all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment.

In conclusion, Italy would like to praise Portugal for the priority given to the fight against trafficking of human beings and violence against women, and the relevant measures taken to prevent both scourges.

I thank you