

Statement of Kenya

at the 19th Session of the UPR Working Group on the

Review of Portugal, Wednesday, 30th April 2014, 9.00am, Geneva

Mr. President,

We extend a warm welcome to the high-level delegation of Portugal to this 2nd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We appreciate the presentation and update that they have provided on the progress made since the last review.

We note that Portugal has continued to register progress in the implementation of key recommendations from the last UPR cycle and from treaty bodies. In particular, we welcome the excellent cooperation established with the OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the provision of voluntary financial contribution to the OHCHR budget and the extension of a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the HRC.

Portugal also has ratified and adopted a number of additional human rights instruments and policy frameworks since the last review. In this regard, Kenya would encourage Portugal to ensure that these instruments and frameworks are fully and effectively implemented both in law and in practice.

Kenya has noted that despite the best efforts taken by the State, some human rights mechanisms including the Human Rights Committee and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent have expressed concerns regarding the special vulnerability of some minority groups in accessing the enjoyment of all human rights. According to the present report, these groups face challenges in accessing on an equal basis, housing, employment, education, wages, health care, and participation in public life.

Recommendation

Kenya would therefore recommend that Portugal adopts special measures to alleviate and remedy disparities in the enjoyment of human rights affecting the vulnerable groups – including immigrants, foreigners, and ethnic minorities like the Ciganos and Roma communities.

In closing, we wish Portugal success in the implementation of the outcomes of this meeting.

I thank you.