

**UZBEKISTAN**

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**United Nations Human Rights Council  
19<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Portugal  
(30/04/2014)**

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Mr. President,

Uzbekistan welcomes the distinguished delegation of Portugal to the second cycle of UPR and thanks for the presentation of their national report.

We commend the Government of Portugal for implementing measures to strengthen human rights protection institutions and mechanisms on the basis of recommendations made during the first review of the country.

However, UN treaty bodies and special procedures have expressed their concern at manifestations of xenophobia and racism in society and discrimination against immigrants and foreigners, particularly those of African descent and Roma in education, health, employment and housing. There are also allegations of abuse and ill treatment by police officers and prison guards.

According to the Committee against Torture, the penitentiary system in Portugal has been facing with problems such as overcrowding and poor health conditions, high rates of death in custody and drug abuse by detainees. Despite measures undertaken by the Government, gender gap persists in wages.

Our delegation makes the following recommendations to Portugal:

1. Take effective measures to prevent any form of discrimination and racism;
2. Penalize the use of xenophobic and racist rhetoric and prohibit organizations which promote or incite to racial discrimination;
3. Investigate all allegations of illegal use of force and ill-treatment by police and security forces, including against migrants, Roma and people of African descent;
4. Adopt comprehensive measures to address the problem of overcrowding, prevent suicides among inmates and improve health conditions in prisons;
5. Create appropriate conditions for the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights of Roma and people of African descent;
6. Support and protect the family as a fundamental and natural unit of society.

Thank you.