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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Nineteenth Session**

**Statement by the Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United
Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Review of Portugal

(Geneva, 30th of April 2014)

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

The delegation of Egypt welcomes the High Level delegation of Portugal, and thanks it for the informative opening remarks.

We commend the steps that Portugal took since the first review. Launching the program of action for elimination of female genital mutilation, enhancing capacity to prosecute violence against women, introducing legislative and executive measures to promote a victim-oriented approach to combating trafficking in persons, and strengthening safeguards for persons deprived from liberty are particularly welcomed.

Egypt is encouraged by the measures undertaken by the Portuguese Government to ensure better integration of migrants, and to effectively combat racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia, including through applying aggravated circumstances on racially motivated crimes. However, we note that CERD expressed its concern regarding racist and xenophobic speech from few extremist political parties and other manifestations of intolerance in the field of sports.

On the other hand, and based on the commendable commitment that Portugal displayed in multilateral fora in this regard, we invite the delegation to share with the Council the national best practices in ensuring that economic, social, and cultural rights are realized, and that possible retrogression is avoided during the times of economic difficulties. Also, we are keen to listen to the views of the delegation on the best practices and challenges in relation to enjoyment of human rights by young people in Portugal.

To conclude, we submit the following recommendations for the kind consideration of the Government of Portugal:

- 1- To continue harmonizing its national laws with its obligations under**

international human rights law, with a view of giving a priority in this regard to ICERD.

- 2- To consider drafting a national action plan on addressing the question of racism and racial discrimination faced by persons from African descent.
- 3- To provide, in accordance with its obligations under International Human Rights Law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society.

I thank you.
