THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, NINETEENTH SESSION (28 APRIL-9 MAY 2014) - SECOND CYCLE REVIEW

 STATEMENT BY GHANA DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, CHARGE D’AFFAIRES A.I. AND DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON REVIEW OF PORTUGAL HELD ON MONDAY, 30 APRIL 2014

I thank you Mr President for giving me the floor.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Portugal and commends Portugal’s commitment to the UPR mechanism. We also applaud the standing invitations issued by Portugal to all special procedures

Ghana notes the various initiatives cited in paragraphs 15 and 26 of the comprehensive national report of Portugal such as the Next Door Family project, the No Hate Speech Movement campaigns and the training on combating of racial discrimination provided to educational institutions aimed at combating racism and promoting the integration of immigrant communities and the marginalised.

However, Ghana also notes the concern expressed by CERD that ``the limited number of complaints in relation to racial discrimination might be due, inter alia, to a lack of confidence in the judicial system because of long and complex judicial procedures , and lack of awareness regarding such legal remedies``

In the light of these concerns attributed to CERD, the Ghana delegation would be grateful to know whether any assessment has been made by Portugal of the impact of the various initiatives to promote integration of immigrants and fight racism and racial discrimination . In this connection, Ghana would also be grateful to know the essence of the findings in the Immigration Observatory Study on racist speech in Portugal.

Ghana further notes that CERD commended Portugal regarding the integration of immigrants and would like to know whether Portugal intends to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention and if not why not.

Ghana wishes the delegation of Portugal a successful review

I thank you, Mr President