

20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
27 October - 7 November 2014
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Statement by Portugal

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Bolivia and thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report, highlighting progress achieved in the protection and promotion of human rights.

We welcome that since the last review, Bolivia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We also welcome that Bolivia extended a Standing Invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Portugal commends the Government of Bolivia for developing, since 2011, human rights indicators in several key priority areas and recommends pursuing this very important work which strengthens the human rights implementation on the ground.

Concerning the rights of the child, Portugal commends the decision taken by the Bolivian authorities to address the issue of violence in schools and to commission a study lead, by the Ministry of Education, which revealed that 88 per cent of the school population suffers some form of violence. Portugal would like to ask the Delegation if it can provide further information on that regard and recommends that the Government of Bolivia addresses this issue, as matter of priority, and takes the appropriate measures to put an end to all forms of ill-treatment and abuses, including sexual violence, perpetrated in schools, including the necessary measures to protect the victims and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

We also recommend that Bolivia adopts a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution on Women Peace and Security (1325).

Finally, Portugal recommends that Bolivia ratifies the UNESCO Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination in Education and that it ensures that primary education is free and compulsory for all.

Thank you Mr. President.