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Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement by Portugal

Portugal welcomes the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and thanks for the presentation of the report concerning the human rights situation in the country.

Portugal welcomes the fact that since its previous review Iran has maintained the Standing Invitation extended to the Council's Special Procedures. We regret nonetheless that a number of mandate holders have not been able to visit Iran as requested. Portugal recommends that Iran positively considers these requests, in particular the request of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in the country.

Portugal welcomes the fact that since its first UPR the Iranian High Council for Human Rights is working on a bill for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. We recommend Iran to promptly approve legislation establishing a NHRI, in full compliance with the Paris Principles, and seek its accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee for NHRIs.

On gender equality, Portugal is concerned that laws that allow for discrimination against women continue to be introduced. We are also concerned about the lack of specific provisions in the Islamic Penal Code about investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence and recommend that Iran considers introducing these amendments.

Portugal is deeply concerned by the fact that the revised Islamic Penal Code continues to apply the capital punishment for a wide range of offences, including some that do not qualify as "most serious crimes" under international law. Portugal recommends that Iran commutes the sentences of persons sentenced to death and establishes a *moratorium* on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty. We also recommend that Iran ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In closing, Portugal recommends that Iran ratifies, without reservations, CEDAW and its optional protocol, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CAT and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr. President.