

20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
27 October - 7 November 2014
Iraq

Statement by Portugal

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Iraq and thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the launching of a National Action Plan to implement the Security Council Resolution 1325, a very important step towards the goal of ending all forms of violence against women and girls. We also welcome that since the last review Iraq has withdrawn its reservation to article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Portugal remains nonetheless concerned with the fact that women in Iraq are still subject to significant gender-based human rights violations. We therefore recommend Iraq to remove its remaining reservations to CEDAW. We also recommend Iraq to expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

Portugal is seriously concerned by the continuous use of death penalty for a multitude of offenses, most of which do not qualify as "most serious crimes" under international law. Portugal recommends that Iraq commutes the sentences of persons sentenced to death and establishes a *moratorium* on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty. We also recommend that Iraq ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Finally, Portugal recommends Iraq to ratify, without reservations, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as its 1967 Protocol.

Thank you Mr. President.