

Kazakhstan

Statement by Portugal

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan and thanks for the presentation of the comprehensive national UPR report. This report demonstrates the commitment of Kazakhstan to the implementation of the recommendations made during the first cycle of the UPR.

We welcome the cooperation of Kazakhstan with the UN Human Rights mechanisms, namely with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and the standing invitation issued by Kazakhstan in this regard.

Portugal takes note of the existence of a *de facto* moratorium on the use of death penalty since 2003 and the Government's intention to gradually reduce the grounds for the imposition of the death penalty until 2020. However, we regret that the new Criminal Code retained the death penalty and that the number of crimes subject, in principle, to the application of the death penalty was increased to 19. Portugal recommends that Kazakhstan abolishes the death penalty and signs and ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Portugal recognises Kazakhstan's efforts to improve respect for women's rights and to reduce gender inequalities. We would like to ask what further measures Kazakhstan intends to adopt in this regard. We recommend that Kazakhstan enacts legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, and adopts a National Action Plan to implement the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

We recommend that Kazakhstan considers developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies.

Finally, we recommend the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thank you.