

21st session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
(19 -30 January 2015)

Statement by Portugal

**Guinea-Bissau**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Guinea-Bissau and the new Government's efforts to better protect and promote human rights.

Portugal particularly welcomes the steps taken by Guinea-Bissau towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls, including the criminalization of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the adoption of a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325.

Building upon those steps, Portugal recommends to the new authorities of Guinea-Bissau the enhancement of the country's efforts:

- (i) to eliminate FGM, as well as early and enforced marriage of girls;
- (ii) to reduce the high maternal and under-five morbidity and mortality rates;
- (iii) to ensure that all children have access to free, compulsory and quality primary education;

Furthermore, Portugal would like to offer the Government of Guinea-Bissau the following recommendations:

- (i) to conclude the revision of the Statute of the National Human Rights Commission to bring it in line with the Paris Principles, also in compliance with the Lisbon Declaration and Protocol of May 2013, which creates the Network of NHRIs of the Portuguese Speaking Countries;
- (ii) to establish an inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for implementing UPR recommendations and drafting overdue reports to the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies.
- (iii) to combat prevailing impunity, thereby defending victims' rights and promoting respect for human rights.

Portugal will maintain its cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in the education and health sectors in order to support the achievement of these goals. Portugal also calls on the international community to support Guinea-Bissau in these areas in the Donor Conference that will take place in Brussels, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

Thank you, Mr. President.