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Statement by Portugal – *DR. NUNO GABRIEL CABRAL*

Kyrgyzstan

Mr. President,

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

Portugal welcomes that since the last review Kyrgyzstan has adopted a new Code for Childhood that reinforces guarantees and procedures for the protection of children. However, Portugal remains concerned with reports of widespread abuse of children in families, alternative care settings and schools, as well as increasing cases of child sexual abuse and violence. Therefore, Portugal recommends that Kyrgyzstan further enhance its efforts to effectively prevent and prosecute violence against children.

In addition, Portugal would like to offer the following recommendations to Kyrgyzstan:

- to prevent all acts of torture and ill-treatment and ensure prompt and impartial investigations into complaints;
- to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, while welcoming the fact that Kyrgyzstan is currently analysing this possibility;
- to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you Mr. President.