

10

21<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group  
(19 - 30 January 2015)  
Statement by Portugal

**Sweden**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Sweden and thanks for the presentation of such a comprehensive national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the improvements introduced in Sweden's institutional framework and recommends that Sweden considers establishing an inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the Treaty Bodies and for organizing country visits by the Council's Special Procedures.

Portugal commends Sweden's efforts to combat all kinds of discrimination, especially against minorities, and to promote equality. The establishment of an Equality Ombudsman is a clear indication in this regard. However, Portugal recommends that Sweden take all the necessary measures to have an Independent National Human Rights Institution with "A" status in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Portugal also recommends that Sweden 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.

In closing, Portugal recommends that Sweden ratifies the the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.