



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

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Statement by Portugal

**Belarus**

Portugal welcomes the Delegation of Belarus and thanks it for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal notes with appreciation Belarus' submission of a mid-term progress report. However, as a cosponsor of resolution HRC 26/25, Portugal remains deeply concerned at the systemic violations of human rights in Belarus, in particular of the right to life (Belarus remains the sole country in Europe where the capital punishment is applied), of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, of peaceful assembly and association as well as the freedom of the media.

Mr. President,

Portugal would like to formulate the following recommendations to the authorities of Belarus:

1. to establish a moratorium on the **death penalty** as an interim measure before its abolition and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
2. to take effective legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of **torture or ill-treatment** and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture;
3. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (**OP-ICESCR**);
4. to adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325;
5. and finally to establish a **NHRI** in full compliance with the UN Paris Principles.

Thank you.