



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

MR. NUNO
GABRIEL
CABRAL

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Statement by Portugal
Permanent Mission of Portugal
22nd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
(May 2015)

United States of America

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of the United States, and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Portugal remains seriously concerned about the continuing use of the capital punishment and about racial disparities in its imposition. We are also deeply concerned about recent cases (2014, Oklahoma and Arizona) where executions by lethal injections have caused cruel and unusual punishment.

Portugal recommends that federal and state authorities impose a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing death penalty nationwide.

Portugal welcomes the improvements in **access to health** introduced by the Affordable Care Act, and recommend the facilitation of access for undocumented immigrants and their children to healthcare under that Act.

Noting the US' commitment to combating **trafficking in human beings**, Portugal recommends an increase in resources for nationwide anti-trafficking awareness programs, including law enforcement training. In this respect, Portugal recommends that special attention is given to protecting migrant workers from exploitative working conditions, specifically in the agricultural sector.

In closing, Portugal recommends the United States ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you Mr President.