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(2 - 13 November 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Australia

Mr. President,

Portugal thanks Australia for its national UPR report and welcomes the overall situation of respect for human rights in the country.

While appreciating the focus of the Australian Government, as mentioned in the national report, on advancing civil and political rights, Portugal allows itself to recall Australia of the interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights and, thus, recommends that Australia puts equal emphasis and commitment on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. In this regard, Portugal also recommends that Australia:

1. takes measures to ensure the universal access to healthcare services, paying particular attention to the needs of persons living in rural and remote areas;
2. ensures that all migrant children, irrespective of their migration status, have access to education and healthcare services in the exact same terms as Australian children do;
3. ratifies the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.

Finally, Portugal further recommends that Australia:

1. makes provision in its national legislation for the crime of domestic violence and takes all adequate measures to eliminate it;
2. develops a National Plan of Action on the Implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325.

Thank you.