



23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(2 - 13 November 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Georgia

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Georgia and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive national UPR report. We would like to commend Georgia for having provided a midterm progress report on the implementation of its universal periodic review recommendations.

Portugal welcomes Georgia's accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. However, we regret the restrictions still remaining in domestic law regarding the acquisition of Georgian nationality by stateless children and would therefore like to recommend that Georgia addresses this issue to ensure that all children who would otherwise be stateless can acquire Georgian nationality.

Furthermore, we are concerned that child marriage continues to be practiced and we would like to recommend that Georgia prevents it among all ethnic groups. In particular, we are worried that this practice constitutes a barrier in the access to education of girls belonging to those groups. We therefore recommend that Georgia ensures full-time school attendance at all levels to children belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Portugal recommends Georgia to fully respect freedom of expression and media pluralism. It further recommends that Georgia pursues its policy of reform towards a fully independent judiciary system.

Finally, we recommend that Georgia ratifies the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), as well as the Optional Protocol to the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.