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23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(2 - 13 November 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Mauritania

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Mauritania and thanks it for the presentation of its national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes that since its previous review Mauritania has ratified CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), ICPPED (International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance) and OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture).

We also welcome that Mauritania's National Human Rights Institution has been upgraded to an "A" status according to the Paris Principles. In this context, we recommend that Mauritania provides its NHRI with the necessary means to ensure its regular work and reinforce its independence.

Given Mauritania's de facto moratorium on the death penalty, Portugal recommends the abolishment of the capital punishment in all cases and in all circumstances, as well as the ratification the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

In light of its overdue reports to the Treaty Bodies, Portugal recommends that Mauritania considers establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for the drafting of the national reports to the Treaty Bodies and for organizing country visits by Special Procedures.

Finally, we recommend that Mauritania ratifies the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women) and the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Thank you, Mr. President.