



23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
(2 - 13 November 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Rwanda

Mr. President,

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

Portugal welcomes that since its previous review Rwanda has extended a Standing Invitation to the Council's Special Procedures and has ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment).

We further welcome the development of a Justice for Children Policy and Strategic Plan and recommend that Rwanda continues to pay close attention to the full realization of the rights of the child, including the right to education. We also recommend that Rwanda effectively prevents and prosecutes those responsible for sexual violence against children and fully protects children in vulnerable situations.

Portugal remains concerned about reports regarding the persistent practice of early marriages in the country and recommends that Rwanda effectively enforces existing legislation in order to prevent and prohibit this practice.

Finally, we recommend that Rwanda ratifies the Optional Protocol to CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) on a communications procedure, the first Optional Protocol to ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Thank you Mr. President.