

33

**Statement of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda
23rd Session of the UPR Working Group
Universal Periodic Review of Sao Tome and Principe
Geneva, 11 November 2015**

Thank you Mr. President

- o Rwanda welcomes the Delegation of Sao Tome and Principe and thanks them for the presentation of their National report.
- o We commend the adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan 2012-2016 and the recent increases in the State's budgetary allocations for health and education.
- o The recent increase in primary school enrolment is also a positive step by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to promote education.
- o We welcome the revision by Sao Tome and Principe of its Penal Code in 2012 to explicitly include provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking. The adoption of the Law on the Judiciary System which provides for the creation of a juvenile court is also a positive step towards justice and the rule of law.

Rwanda wishes to make the following recommendations:

- **Continue efforts to ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth and that birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates are provided free of charge**
- **Strengthen the strategies and measures for fulfilling children's rights in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan**
- **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.**

Finally, we wish Sao Tome and Principe every success in this UPR.

Thank you