



49

**24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

(18 - 29 January 2015)

Statement by Portugal

**Denmark**

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Denmark and thanks it for its comprehensive national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes that since the last review, Denmark has established a Special Office for Children, in 2012, aimed at protecting and promoting children's rights, and that it has ratified the "Istanbul Convention" (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women).

However, Portugal is concerned with a progressive tightening of conditions for asylum seekers and immigrants, which includes the detention of children. We recommend that Denmark exempts all asylum-seeking and migrant children from detention and that they are granted access to education through integration into mainstream public schools.

Denmark's intention to confiscate certain refugees' belongings is also a matter of concern. Portugal further regrets that persons originating from countries in conflict and other situations of violence and thus granted with the temporary subsidiary protection status, can not initiate family reunification proceedings during their first year in Denmark and therefore recommends that they are allowed to do so.

Finally, Portugal recommends that Denmark ratifies the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

Thank you, Mr. President.