



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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(18 -29 January 2016)

Statement by Portugal

Thank you Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the Delegation of Niger and thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal notes with appreciation Niger's willingness to engage further with the work of the human rights treaty bodies and welcomes, among other developments, the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee in charge of preparing human rights reports. Furthermore, we welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR in 2014 and recommend Niger proceeds with the internal measures necessary to comply with the obligations arising therefrom.

Portugal would like to offer the following recommendations to the authorities of Niger:

- To abolish death penalty *de iure* and accede to the second OP to the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights);
- To enhance its efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and withdraw its reservations to the CEDAW Convention;
- To take further measures in order to improve its legislation, policy and practice on gender equality and on prevention and response to gender based violence;
- To strengthen its internal human rights monitoring system by proceeding with the accreditation of its National Human Rights Commission with category A rating according to the Paris Principles;
- To develop a national action plan to address the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Thank you.