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24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(18 - 29 January 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Seychelles

Mr. President,

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

Portugal welcomes that, since its first UPR, Seychelles extended a Standing Invitation to the Council's Special Procedures.

We recommend that Seychelles considers establishing an inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations, inter alia, for coordinating the drafting of the national reports to the Treaty Bodies and for organizing country visits by the Council's Special Procedures.

While recognizing Seychelles' efforts to review the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission, we recommend Seychelles to provide it with all the necessary resources to make it fully compliant with the Paris Principles (A Status).

Portugal is concerned with the incidence of sexual exploitation of children, including child sex tourism. We would like to recommend Seychelles to take all necessary measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation.

Finally, we recommend Seychelles to ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment), as well as Optional Protocol to ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and the Optional Protocol to CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.