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24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(18 - 29 January 2015)

Statement by Portugal

Somalia

Mr. President,

Portugal thanks Somalia for the presentation of its UPR report, and congratulates her for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We recommend that Somalia ratifies the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Additional Protocols.

Portugal also recommends Somalia considers acceding to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Portugal appreciates the information provided in Somalia's report on of freedom of expression and opinion. Nonetheless, we remain concerned with the situation of journalists and HR defenders and recommend that Somalia puts an end to restrictions on freedom of expression, including arrests of journalists and human rights activists. Portugal further recommends that Somalia considers extending an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights' Defenders.

In closing, Portugal recommends the Somali authorities adopt measures aimed at protecting persons belonging to minority groups, including internally displaced persons belonging to minorities.

Thank you, Mr. President