



69

## **25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

(2 - 13 May 2016)

### **Statement by Portugal**

#### **Greece**

Mr. President,

Portugal extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Greece and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive national UPR report, highlighting the main achievements and challenges in the field of human rights protection since the country's first review, in 2011.

We commend Greece for its outstanding and continued efforts in improving the humanitarian situation of thousands of refugees that have been arriving to the Greek Islands, as well as for the hospitality, solidarity and assistance granted to those refugees by many Greek citizens. moved by genuine altruism amidst deep economic hardship.

Portugal also welcomes the fact that, despite the economic crisis, Greece has continued to endeavor to respect and promote human rights, including by protecting the right of every single child living in Greece to enroll in school, regardless of residence status.

Portugal further commends Greece for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since its last UPR .

We would like to offer Greece the following recommendations:

- To develop National Human Rights Indicators, as suggested by the OHCHR, as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of its national human rights policies;
- To ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.