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25th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(2 - 13 May 2016)

Statement by Portugal

Ireland

Mr. President,

Portugal extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Ireland and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive national UPR report.

We commend Ireland for continuing to endeavor to respect and promote human rights, despite the challenges of the economic and financial crisis. We particularly welcome the establishment of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in 2014 as an independent statutory body, introducing a positive duty on public bodies to have due regard to human rights and equality in their work.

We further welcome steps taken towards the ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and we recommend the swift conclusion of the process and the ratification of this important international human rights instrument.

While welcoming the Government's Social Housing Strategy 2020, we are nevertheless concerned with reports of families affected by homelessness facing severe delays in accessing social housing and we recommend the adoption of measures to decrease the number of homeless people, including through the availability of social housing.

We would also like to offer Ireland the following recommendations:

- 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.

Thank you, Mr. President.