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

(2 - 13 May 2016)

### Statement by Portugal

#### **Samoa**

Mr. President,

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

Portugal welcomes the progresses achieved by Samoa since the last UPR, in particular the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Act requiring a 10% quota of women parliamentarians, thus enhancing the rights of women in terms of civic participation and political life.

We also welcome that, since the last UPR, Samoa has extended a Standing Invitation to the Council's Special Procedures.

We further welcome the adoption of the Family Safety Act, in 2013, providing for an extensive definition of domestic violence and we would like to recommend the Government of Samoa puts in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address this issue and ensure that women have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that the perpetrators are prosecuted.

We would also like to offer the following recommendations to Samoa:

- To further protect children against violence and child labour through the strengthening of legislation, in order to safeguard their well-being and their right to education.
- To establish 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.
- To ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as the 2nd Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. President.