



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

(2 - 13 May 2016)

Statement by Portugal

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and thanks it for the presentation of its national UPR report.

Portugal commends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for achieving universal access to primary and secondary education.

Although we note with appreciation the fact that since 1995 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines applies a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty, we recommend that an official moratorium is adopted aiming at the formal abolishment of the death penalty in the country. In this context, we further recommend that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratifies the Second Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Portugal would also like to recommend that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reviews its legislation relating to the rights of children to include legislative measures to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children.

We would also like to offer the following recommendations to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

- To take the necessary measures in order to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- To sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OP-CAT); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (OP-CEDAW); and the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OP-CRC-IC).

Thank you, Mr. President.