



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

(2 - 13 May 2016)

### Statement by Portugal

#### **Sudan**

Mr. President,

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

Portugal remains extremely concerned with the human rights situation in Sudan, especially following the reports by the Independent Expert, Mr. Aristide Nononsi, who has recently concluded his second mission to the country, and referred to cases of arbitrary arrests and detention, allegations of ill-treatment and travel ban for human rights defenders and political activists by security forces, including the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Furthermore, we are concerned that the death penalty is used for crimes that are not considered "most serious crimes", contrarily to what is stated by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which has been ratified by Sudan.

We would therefore like to make the following recommendations to Sudan:

- To adopt an official moratorium aiming at the formal abolition of the death penalty in the country and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- To ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as mass rapes, and sexual and gender-based violence are promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated and to take all the necessary measures to bring perpetrators to justice;
- To criminalize the recruitment of children and investigate all the reports of recruitment of children by the security forces, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and duly prosecuted;
- To ensure that humanitarian access is granted to civilian populations in all conflict-affected areas of the country;
- To ratify the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) and the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OP-CRC-IC).

Thank you, Mr. President.