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25th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

(2 - 13 May 2016)

Statement by Portugal

Swaziland

Mr. President,

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

Portugal congratulates Swaziland for progresses achieved since its last UPR as regards the ratification of key human rights instruments. We therefore recommend the government of Swaziland to consider establishing a permanent 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.

Portugal has for long been strongly committed in promoting the universal abolition of the death penalty. In this context, and given that there have been no executions in the country since 1983, we recommend Swaziland to establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to abolishing death penalty both in practice and in law.

Although freedom of expression is enshrined in article 24 of the Constitution of Swaziland, we are concerned with reports of restrictions to freedom of expression in the country. We recommend, in his regard, that Swaziland fully implements its constitutional provision on freedom of expression and establishes a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards.

Thank you, Mr. President.