**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**44th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Burkina Faso**

**Geneva, 6 November 2023**

Statement by Portugal

*Speaking time - 1’10”*

Chair,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend Burkina Faso for abolishing the death penalty for civilians in 2018 and for beginning the ratification process of the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Portugal recommends that Burkina Faso:

* Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
* Establish a national action plan to protect schools and other educational institutions as well as teachers and students from attacks, including by armed groups.
* Amend the Penal Code to criminalize the acts of procuring, aiding and abetting when related to female genital mutilation.

Portugal wishes Burkina Faso a successful review.

Thank you.