**UPR 43 – Turkmenistan**

*1’30’’ speaking time*

Chairperson,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan and wishes it a successful review.

Portugal commends Turkmenistan for the adoption of the second National Plan of Action for Gender Equality (2021-2025).

Portugal recommends that Turkmenistan:

1. Signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. Repeals article 135 of its Criminal Code with a view to decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations among adults;
3. Expand public education programmes to strengthen the substantive understanding of gender equality; revise school textbooks to remove discriminatory gender stereotypes and provide gender training to teachers.

Thank you.