Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo

Permanent Representative of Portugal

28th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

**Republic of Korea**

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Korea and thanks it for the presentation of their national report.

Portugal commends the Republic of Korea for the adoption of the Refugee Act in 2013, and for establishing a National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Portugal recommends the abolition of the death penalty in law. In this context, Portugal also recommends the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Portugal also recommends that the Republic of Korea review the National Security Act to ensure that it fully respects human rights, including in what regards freedom of speech, association and peaceful manifestation.

Moreover, Portugal recommends that the Republic of Korea legally recognizes conscientious objection to military service.

Finally, we recommend the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture.

Thank you Mr. President