Statement by Portugal

28th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

**Sri Lanka**

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks it for the presentation of the national UPR report. Portugal commends Sri Lanka for the reinforcement of the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses, as well as for the development of a Policy on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Portugal addresses Sri Lanka the following recommendations:

1. Ensure safeguards against arbitrary arrest and torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment through reinforcing legislation in conformity with its international obligations and ratify OP-CAT;

2. Adopt measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination in health care settings, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, while paying particular attention to the specific needs of key populations, including LGBTI persons;

3. Apply alternatives to detention to irregular migrant, in particular for families and children,

4. In this context, we further recommend that Sri Lanka ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

5. Review Sri Lanka’s domestic laws that have an impact on equality between men and women, in particular those that govern rights of succession, the disposal of immovable property and the establishment of a minimum age for marriage;

6. To conclude, Mr. President, Portugal recommends Sri Lanka to transform its de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty into definitive abolition.

Thank you, Mr. President