29th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

**Romania**

Statement by Portugal

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Romania and thanks them for the presentation of the comprehensive national UPR report.

Portugal offers the following recommendations:

1. To adopt specific measures to reduce the exposure of children to poverty risk.

2. To create integrated support services for survivors of sexual violence, also in cases in which the aggressor is not a family member, and to amend the Law 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence in order to expand its scope to all forms of gender-based violence.

3. To introduce a dedicated legal framework or amend the existing labor legislation in order to promote the regulation of paid and quality internships.

4. To remove any existing restriction to the practice of *pro bono* legal advice, counseling or service provided by lawyers to those in need of legal aid and are unable to afford legal representation.

5. To ratify the OP-ICESCR.

6. To consider the establishment or strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements arising from good practicesidentified in the OHCHR Study/Guide of 2016 concerning NMRF´s.

Thank you, Mr. President.