



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
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Statements made by State under review at the HRC under item 6 after the adoption of the UPR report

Country: Portugal (First Cycle, 2009)

Date of the statement: 16th HRC session - 18 March 2011

“Since it underwent its UPR in December 2009, Portugal has been actively implementing the recommendations which were made.

In this spirit, we created one year ago a National Human Rights Commission, which is the appropriate coordination mechanism at the higher level and with the participation of civil society to follow up those recommendations. This new body is improving our capacity to participate in exercises such as the UPR, the presentation of national reports to treaty bodies, and, first and foremost, will bring clear added value to the implementation of human rights in this first year:

1. Concerning the recommendation on overdue reports to the UN Treaty Bodies, we have recently submitted to the Secretariat of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Common Expanded Core Document as well as four of our overdue reports on the implementation of the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

2. Portugal has approved the second Plan for Immigrant Integration (2010-2013), under the coordination of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, which addresses the recommendation to intensify efforts to strengthen programmes, projects and other measures to prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups, including migrants. This Plan’s key objective continues to be the full integration of immigrants in culture, language, employment, professional training and housing.

It is my pleasure to recall that, attesting our strong commitment in this area, Portugal has been, for the second consecutive time, ranked second among 31 countries for its policies of integration by the Migrant Integrations Policy Index.

3. Regarding the recommendation to provide better health provisions in prisons, a working party on “Justice and Health” was created with a view to establish a National Action Plan on Control of Infectious Disease in prison facilities. As a result, Portugal, building on the existing syringe exchange programme, has adopted a holistic



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approach to the control and prevention of infectious diseases as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in prison facilities.

4. Finally, regarding the recommendation to develop new plans to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights on equal basis, the National Strategy for Disability, has been adopted on 14 of December 2010, comprising 133 measures in five strategic pillars for the next two years.”

19th HRC session - 16 March 2012

"Our National Human Rights Commission, an intergovernmental body with the main function of coordinating the national response to Human Rights reporting obligations, created in 2010, following a voluntary commitment expressed during our UPR review, met already four times with representatives of civil society. It has proved to be a very successful and much needed forum which enables a regular and productive contact between the government and NGOs. Within this framework, we consulted civil society regarding our midterm report, as well on three national reports on the implementation of Human Rights Conventions, a practice which we will follow henceforth with all the reports".