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**UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-seventh session, 8 – 26 September 2014**

**Item 6:**

**Consideration of UPR outcomes**

**PORTUGAL**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International is concerned that the austerity measures introduced by the government in the context of the international economic crisis have had a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic and social rights, by the most vulnerable groups in Portuguese society. Several states raised these concerns during the review and we welcome Portugal's support of recommendations to mitigate the effects of the financial crisis while observing its human rights obligations.<sup>1</sup> To that end, we call on the government to carry out a human rights assessment of its economic recovery plans and policies and to establish a national monitoring mechanism to ensure that these conform with Portugal's human rights obligations, including to guaranteeing non-discrimination.

We are also concerned at reports of overcrowding in prisons and of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against detainees, as raised by a number of states during the review. We urge Portugal to act swiftly on recommendations to pursue measures to combat overcrowding and improve conditions in prisons,<sup>2</sup> while also ensuring prompt and thorough investigations into all allegations of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by police and prison guards.<sup>3</sup> We further call on the government to establish a central mechanism for processing all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment.

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/27/7, recommendations 127.53 (Angola), 127.55 (Malaysia), 127.56 (Turkey), 127.57 (Ukraine).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, recommendations 127.27-127.33 (Netherlands, France, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, recommendations 127.20-127.26 (Canada, USA, Iran, Uzbekistan, Norway, Italy).

Mr. President,

A large number of states raised concerns about discrimination, including racial discrimination and discrimination based on sexual orientation.<sup>4</sup> We welcome Portugal's support of these recommendations and further call on the government to establish a national data gathering system to assess the extent of discrimination in the country, and to revise the Criminal Code to ensure the prohibition of hate crimes.

We are very disappointed, however, that Portugal rejected a recommendation to allow the adoption of children by same-sex couples.<sup>5</sup> In 2010, Portugal adopted a law to allow same-sex partners to enter civil marriage, however, the law explicitly ruled out the possibility for same-sex couples to adopt children. We call on Portugal to reconsider this issue and to allow the co-adoption of children by same-sex couples, in line with the right to found a family, as set out in international human rights standards.

Finally, Mr. President,

We note that Portugal is a candidate in this year's elections to the Human Rights Council and we welcome its pledges in this regard, including to use the UPR as a collaborative mechanism to improve respect for human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, recommendations 126.13-126.28 (Algeria, Bangladesh, Poland, Palestine, Macedonia, Uzbekistan, Senegal, Bolivia, Brazil, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Venezuela), 126.49-126.58 (Nicaragua, Albania, Australia, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Spain, Thailand, Venezuela), 127.9-127.16 (Bangladesh, DRC, Egypt, Iran, South Africa, Iran, Slovenia, FYR Macedonia, Sierra Leone),

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, recommendation 127.52 (Bangladesh).