



PROVEDOR DE JUSTIÇA

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Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Portuguese Ombudsman wishes to welcome the opportunity to address the Human Rights Council by the occasion of its Twenty-Seventh Session in which will be adopted Portugal's report.

In that regard I wish to note that from the one hundred and fifty one recommendations made to the Portuguese State, one hundred and thirty nine were accepted and twelve rejected.

Although this fact doesn't represent by itself the real measure of the country's enforcement of its international obligations in the sphere of human rights, it is, nevertheless, a proper indicator of the commitment of Portugal to respect those fundamental rights.

However, I am concerned and attentive to the effects of the economic crisis and the austerity measures adopted by the Portuguese Government, particularly the ones that affect more acutely those who are exposed to increased risks of exclusion.

Nonetheless we recognize the effort of the Portuguese Government in order to mitigate the effects of the restrictive measures in order to maintain a standard of wellbeing that is satisfactory with the observance of human rights.

The challenges that we face today demand a special attention and innovative ways to accomplish a fair and equal society, which is the foundation of our institutions.

For that reason, I wish to express before the Human Rights Council my strongest commitment to continue to work, alongside the international community in promoting and protecting human rights.