Portuguese National Human Rights Committee (PNHRC)

2014 Strategic Work Plan

1. The PNHRC will discuss and identify national priorities for the discussions in:
   1.1. The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly;
   1.2. The UN Human Rights Council (ordinary sessions and extraordinary sessions convened in 2014; Portugal’s candidacy to the 2015-2017 mandate with elections to be held in November);
   1.3. UN Commission on the Status of Women;
   1.4. UN Commission for Social Development;
   1.5. The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;

2. The PNHRC will:
   2.1. Closely monitor the national implementation of the Human Rights commitments undertaken by Portugal within the framework of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2012-2014) approved by the Foreign Affairs Council on 25th June 2012;
   2.2. Prepare Portugal’s 2nd Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council, preparing for (April/May 2014);

3. The PNHRC will:
   3.1. Continue to develop national Human Rights Indicators as recommended by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
   3.2. Conclude the process of designating the National Independent Mechanism to Monitor the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. The PNHRC will coordinate the timely presentation of reports on the implementation of International Human Rights legal instruments to which Portugal is bound to:
   4.1. Update the Core Document;
   4.2. Prepare the consideration by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child of the 3rd and 4th National Reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the preliminary reports on the Optional Protocols.
on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (Geneva, January);

4.3. Prepare the consideration by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the 4th National Report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Geneva, November);

4.4. Regularly update and publicize the list of recommendations issued by Human Rights Treaty bodies, by the special proceedings of the Human Rights Council, by the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, by the Council of Europe and by other relevant human rights mechanisms and evaluate the need for reinforced national coordination mechanisms on human rights issues, notably on the rights of the child.

5. The PNHRC will work towards the finalization of the ratification of International Human Rights Instruments:

5.1. In the framework of the United Nations, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;


6. The PNHRC will share information on its activities:

6.1. Portuguese Embassies and Permanent Missions to the UN will the PNHRC 2014 Strategic Work Plan and the PNHRC 2013 Annual Report;

6.2. The Portuguese Mission to the UN in Geneva will regularly update the Office of the UNHCHR on the adoption of the Portuguese Human Rights Indicators as well as on other activities undertaken by the Committee.

7. The PNHRC will, at national level, share information on Human Rights issues through:

7.1. The PNHRC website;

7.2. Open meetings with civil society representatives, both at Plenary and Working Group level.
8. The following initiatives will be undertaken by PNHRC members, within the framework of their respective competences:

8.1. Include Human Rights-related subjects in the training courses of the Air Force Academy, the Navy School and the Army Academy;


8.3. Organize Conferences within the National Defence Course on issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights, namely on “International Tribunals”, “Ethnic Conflicts and Human Security” and “Responsibility to Protect”; 

8.4. Implement the National Republican Guard’s “Investigation and Support to Specific Victims” project;

8.5. Develop a Public Security Police project aimed at promoting the security of mentally disabled people and/or people with multiple disabilities and of those who interact with them;

8.6. Continue to organize courses/training programmes on Ethics and Human Rights to Immigration and Border Service professionals; 8.7. Approve Protocols between the Immigration and Border Service and other organisations for the publication of information on human rights and protection of vulnerable groups;

8.7. Implement the European project for the creation of a dynamic information sharing platform on human trafficking, through the Observatory on Human Trafficking;

8.8. Publish and disseminate brochures on the rights of defendants and victims in criminal proceedings; breach

8.9. Involve civil society in judicial protection against all forms of violence;

8.10. Emphasize human rights-related subjects on training given to judges, prosecutors, criminal police inspectors and prison guards;

8.11. Emphasize human rights topics in the programme of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries;

8.12. Encourage corporate social responsibility;

8.13. Organize a workshop on good practices on corporate social responsibility, notably on the scope of trafficking in human beings;

8.14. Publishing a guide on good practices in the fight against domestic and gender-based violence, to be distributed to corporations;
8.15. Draft a report on Portugal’s contribution to the Strategy of Food and Nutrition Security of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries;

8.16. Continue the School Fruit Scheme, aimed at distributing fruit and vegetables to children in primary schools twice a week;

8.17. Continue the School Milk Scheme, aimed at distributing milk and dairy products to kindergartens, primary schools and high schools on a daily basis;

8.18. Support women farmers’ associations and entrepreneurship programmes;

8.19. Increase the quantity of available social housing dwellings, maintaining lower rents than those offered by the real estate market;

8.20. Stimulate the younger population’s leasing of real estate through the Porta 65 Jovem programme;

8.21. Continue the conservation and maintenance work of the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation;

8.22. Rehabilitate, reconstruct or construct housing dwellings for vulnerable social groups;

8.23. Promote of the economic viability of watering services;

8.24. Provide information on human rights in the Directorate-General for Health’s website;

8.25. Organize an awareness raising/training session on Health and Migration;

8.26. Continue to publish guides on “Education, Gender and Citizenship” for preschools and Primary Schools, organising training workshops for teachers and building an Educational Benchmark for Gender Equality for all school levels;

8.27. Promote the “Intercultural School Seal” initiative and organize the Intercultural Educational Benchmark for all school levels; organize awareness raising activities and teacher and non-teacher training;

8.28. Continue to include the subject “Portuguese as a Foreign Language” in the school curricula, in order to promote an effective integration of foreign students in the Portuguese educational system and society;

8.29. Organize a Seminar within the framework of the Council of Europe’s Campaign “No to Hate Speech – Young people against hate speech online”;

8.30. Organize training sessions on economic, social and cultural rights;

8.31. Disseminate the Portuguese version of the Council of Europe’s booklet on the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse;

8.33. Develop a social responsibility project for the promotion of unknown female authors, including immigrant women;

8.34. Establish information-sharing mechanisms and publishing books in cooperation with Portuguese speaking countries;

8.35. Organize the 9th edition of the Journalism Award “Human Rights & Integration” in cooperation with Portugal’s National Commission for UNESCO;

8.36. Organize the 4th Seminar on “Media and Disability”;

8.37. Commemorate the World Press Freedom Day through the organisation of the 2nd edition of “Operation Seven Days with the Media” (3-9 May);

8.38. Launch the 3rd Plan for the Integration of Immigrants;

8.39. Launch the Observatory for the Gipsy Community which will promote academic and scientific studies;

8.40. Launch a TV show targeted to children to raise awareness on the culture and tradition of a given country or community through interactive team games;

8.41. Implement the 5th National Plan for Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination (2014-2017);

8.42. Implement the 5th National Plan for the Prevention and Fighting Against Domestic and Gender Violence (2014-2017);

8.43. Implement the 3rd National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014-2017);

8.44. Implementing the 3rd Programme of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation;

8.45. Implement the 1st National Plan on Women, Peace and Security in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2009-2014);

8.46. Implement a youth volunteer project aimed at aiding the elderly in major urban areas;

8.47. Foster local networks of young volunteer workers that prevent violence between boyfriends and girlfriends.