**Country:** *Portugal*

**Committee:** *UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency)*

**Agenda Item:** *Promotion and protection of human rights in the situation of human trafficking*.

Portugal, officially the Portuguese Republic is a country located on the Iberian Peninsula, in southwestern Europe, and whose territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. It features the westernmost point in continental Europe, and its Iberian portion is bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain, the sole country to have a land border with Portugal. Portugal has been a semi-presidential representative democratic republic since the ratification of the Constitution of 1976, with Lisbon, the nation's largest city, as its capital. The Head of State of Portugal is the President of the Republic, elected to a five-year term by direct, universal suffrage. Presidential powers include the appointment of the Prime Minister and the other members of the Government. Portugal is a developed and a high-income country. A member state of the United Nations since 1955, Portugal is also a founding member of NATO (1949), OECD (1961) and EFTA (1960); it left the last in 1986 to join the European Economic Community, which became the European Union in 1993.

 Human Trafficking is a public crime that violates fundamental human rights, such as freedom, dignity and equality. The crime of Human Trafficking is committed by anyone who offers, delivers, recruits, entices, accepts, transports, harbours or receives a minor or adult person for the purpose of exploitation, including labour exploitation, begging, slavery, the removal of organs or the exploitation of other criminal activities.

 Portugal is a destination and transit country for women, men, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor. Trafficking victims in Portugal are from Brazil, Colombia, and Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova, Poland and some African countries. Children from Eastern Europe, including Romani, are subjected to force begging, sometimes by their families. The Government of Portugal made some important progress towards meeting the minimum standards during the reporting period. In 2009, the government achieved a significant milestone in its anti-trafficking law enforcement.

 Raise awareness—inform the world of this crime and mobilize people to stop it. Strengthen prevention—warn vulnerable groups and alleviate the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of opportunity.