**6th Intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council**

**on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda**

**Geneva, 18 January 2023**

**Session 1:** Applying a human rights lens to the reform of IFIs to eradicate poverty and advance human rights and the Sustainable Development Agenda

Statement by Portugal

*2’ speaking time*

Madam Moderator,

We welcome today’s intersessional meeting and thank the Office of the High Commissioner for organizing it with the core group of the 2030 Agenda resolution, of which Portugal is a member. We thank the panelists for their interventions.

Dear colleagues,

It has become evident that the Bretton Woods architecture is in need of a reform. As discussions progress on how to achieve this, it is essential to approach this topic through a human rights perspective. Our end goal must be to make the international financial architecture fit for purpose, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to leave no one behind.

Some conditionalities in IFIs’ programmes and austerity measures may limit countries’ ability to deliver essential public services and, in particular, the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, by reducing State’s capacity for social spending. This is directly related to States’ efforts to eradicate poverty and to ensure social protection.

In the context of such efforts, we highlight the importance of promoting universal systems for social protection, which are key to fulfilling the right to social security. We look forward to the panel discussion on the rights to social security that will take place in HRC 55.

Therefore, as the High Commissioner has underlined, economic policies must not overlook States’ human rights obligations. In other words, we must promote human rights economies that prioritize investment in human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

Finally, Portugal reaffirms its active and constructive commitment towards financing for development, recalling the importance of implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to achieve the SDGs.

Thank you.

*265 words*