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## **24<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

### **Oral intervention on the Universal Periodic Review of**

#### **Cape Verde**

**18 September 2013**

Speaker: Mr. Mewail Tesfamariam

Thank you Mr. President,

RADDHO would like to congratulate the Republic of Cape Verde on its participation in the UPR process and we look forward to a more constructive and continuous engagement with all other relevant human rights mechanisms.

In July, RADDHO was honored to meet with H.E. Mr. José Maria Pereira Neves, the Prime Minister of Cape Verde, during the WTO's 4th annual review of its Aid for Trade session, where His Excellency described the success achieved in so far by his country in meeting the MDGs. The Prime Minister also outlined his government's efforts in promoting good governance and transparency in the country. Despite geographically being at a disadvantage, Cape Verde can set a good example to other developing countries in Africa in combatting poverty and develop its economy.

Mr. President, in spite of these positive developments, we are gravely concerned about the disturbing prevalence of violence against women, children and the widespread discrimination women in Cape Verde continue to endure. In addition, we are also concerned by the existing discriminatory stereotypes against women, which in turn, leads to an increase in discrimination against women in both public and private life.

We are equally concerned about violence against children in Cape Verde and we call on the Cape Verdean government to exert its utmost efforts, not only in enacting measures to combat violence against children but to also increase its efforts to raise awareness about the negative effects of this practice. Moreover, the harsh conditions in Cape Verdean prisons is indeed very alarming and we call on the Cape Verdean authorities to take all the necessary measures to improve the conditions in the detention centres.

In closing, RADDHO encourages that the Cape Verdean government introduces an apprenticeship program designed to stem the early withdrawal from school by disadvantaged children so they can be provided with a better future where they can lead a normal life. Finally Mr. President, RADDHO strongly encourages Cape Verde to fulfill its reporting obligations to the treaty bodies and all other relevant mechanisms.

Thank you Mr. President,