

# **PORTUGAL**

**UNITED NATIONS**

**Commission of Population and Development**

**Forty-first Session**

**Item 4: General debate on National Experience in Population Matters:  
Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development**

**Statement by**

**Mr. Pedro Costa Pereira**

**Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations**

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Mr. Chairman

First of all, let me congratulate you on your election as chairman of the meeting.

My distinguished colleague from Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union, has already expressed the main ideas on this year's theme ("Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development") which we fully endorse.

I would like to reaffirm our support for the entire agenda of the

have moved to rural areas, which has subsequently contributed to mitigate

Simultaneously, two positive trends in the population dynamics issue were registered in the Portuguese territory.

The first refers to the positive migratory growth, which contributes to:

- (I) slow down the population decline in considerable large areas in the country's rural regions;
- (II) development of medium countryside cities.

The second trend has to do with the natural increase rate, which plays an important role in the population growth in some areas of the north and south coast.

Our cities, like many other cities all over the world, have become multicultural centers, requiring the inclusion of intercultural perspectives in urban planning and in managing urbanization. We all know that unfortunately the urban poor often have little choice but to take shelter in

created for that purpose.

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Finally, the National Action Plan of territorial and urban planning oriented to 2025 has the following strategic goals:

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While urbanization is an integral part of economic and social development in both developed and developing countries, it can have adverse consequences for migrating and urban populations by straining the existing urban infra-structures and services, resulting in higher rates of