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Human Rights Council
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CONSIDERATION OF UPR REPORTS

INTERVENTION BY BRAZIL

Mister President,

Brazil wishes to express its gratitude to the Human Rights Council and to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It was a great opportunity to be able to present the human rights situation in our country and the efforts undertaken by our Government to promote, protect and guarantee these rights in an environment of constructive and frank dialogue.

It has been a great honor to be engaged in the whole process which lead to the adoption of the first final reports of the working group of the UPR: the institution-

building process, the preparation of the national report, its presentation, and now, the outcome process.

We are really happy to see the successful conclusion of the beginning of the first UPR cycle. Brazil is convinced that the implementation of the Mechanism of Universal Periodic Review is deeply connected to the successful outcome of the human rights system reform, which aimed at leaving behind a history of high politicization and selectivity.

Brazil strongly believes that the UPR mechanism constitutes an innovative framework to deal with human rights defense in the multilateral system. It could serve as a good example to be repeated in other UN bodies. As the beginning of the first UPR Cycle is concluding, it becomes evident that non-selectivity and transparency are the most efficient ways to promote true dialogue and achieve real cooperation among countries.

Mister President,

The Brazilian delegation which came to Geneva for the presentation of our national report and interactive dialogue was broad and representative. Most of its members have previous experience in civil society activities. The delegation was headed by the Under-Secretary of Special Secretariat for Human Rights, and composed by high level authorities from the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, the Special Secretariat of Promotion of Racial Equality, the Ministry

of Justice, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of External Relation, and the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform.

During the interactive dialogue, 47 States from all five regional groups commented on our report, asked questions and made recommendations. Such active participation of all States in the UPR process ratifies our acknowledgement that, despite all differences, human rights is a common concern of all. We see the UPR exercise as a valuable opportunity for international cooperation.

We wish to reiterate Brazil's commitment to take serious account of the recommendations made, which are now in our final report, all of them accepted and acknowledged.

Mister President,

We recognize that, despite all progress achieved since redemocratization in Brazil, there are still many areas in serious need of improvement and many issues still to be addressed before full realization of human rights. Brazil faces huge challenges concerning the reduction of poverty, the amelioration of prison conditions, the empowerment of women, the protection of human rights defenders, the eradication of racial discrimination, the respect to indigenous peoples rights, the access to justice, the improvement of public security, and the elimination of torture, among others.

We strongly believe, however, that 2008 will be an important year for the promotion of human rights in Brazil, a year of reflection not only on what our challenges are and on which public policies need to be reformulated but also on what has worked well so far.

The 11th National Conference on Human Rights, which will happen next December will be a major step towards a comprehensive evaluation of human rights challenges faced by Brazil. The Conference will aim at revising the National Plan on Human Rights, which establishes the core guidelines to the elaboration of actions and public policies for the protection and promotion of human rights in the domestic level. The National Plan on Human Rights stems from a recommendation of the Vienna World Conference, whose final document started to be implemented in Brazil in 1996.

In the context of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Brazilian government, along with civil society entities is also organizing important events, not only of national but also of international scope.

The Regional Preparatory Conference to the Durban Review Conference will take place in Brasília next week, from 17 to 19 of June. The Conference will bring together delegations from South and Central America, the Caribbean region and representatives of the civil society to discuss what our region expects from the Durban Review

Conference and how can it contribute to the review process.

From 25 to 28 of November, the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents will gather more than three thousand people in Rio de Janeiro to explore the challenges of implementing an inter-sectorial approach to the global fight against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. We invite all States and representatives of the civil society present here to get together in Brazil for the III Congress so that we can join efforts to combat such crime.

At the Human Rights Council, Brazil is committed to launching a set of human rights voluntary goals by December 2008. Brazil and the co-sponsors of the initiative expect to continue counting on the cooperation of all States to elaborate these goals in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Besides, on the eve of the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we expect to approve a consensual resolution during the next session of the Council. The draft Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children without Parental Care should be adopted by the Council and transmitted to the General Assembly. The Guidelines are an important complement to the system of child protection established by the Convention.

We can also mention the realization of the I National Conference of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Travesties and Transsexuals and of the 3rd Film Festival on Human Rights and Cinema in South America, among many other initiatives.

Mr. President,

The outcomes of the UPR process have already been very positive for Brazil. The voluntary commitments of creating a national system of human rights indicators and the elaboration of annual reports on the situation of human rights, taking into account the UPR follow-up, will be fundamental tools for the domestic monitoring of human rights.

It is worth highlighting that, on the last week of May, a second public hearing, in follow-up to the one which occurred before the conclusion of our national report, has taken place in the Commission of Human Rights and Minorities of the House of Representatives. In the occasion, organizations of the civil society could express their opinions regarding the UPR process, and make comments on the Brazilian participation in the international human rights fora.

Let me remark, mister President, that our commitments before the Council mean concrete actions in Brazil and, along the way, the government is open to a transparent and objective dialogue with the civil society. No public policy can be promessing and effective without its

participation. NGOs in Brazil have been partners of the government to the improvement of human rights standards.

Finally, may we thank all countries which participated in the review of the Brazilian report, and express our gratitude to the members of the Troika.

We have great expectations on the consolidation of the UPR mechanism throughout the following sessions and we hope to contribute to this task.

We are thankful for those States which recently supported Brazil's reelection to the Human Rights Council.

Brazil seizes the opportunity here to reiterate its voluntary commitments. It is our goal to continue collaborating with the Human Rights Council, to enhance cooperation with international mechanisms for monitoring the protection of human rights; to consider ratifying human rights treaties that Brazil is not a State party; to support the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to strengthen the regional systems for promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you very much Mister President.