

Oral statement during the approval of the final report – UPR Brazil

June 10th, 2008

Conectas Human Rights (by Camila Asano)

Thank you Mr. President.

On behalf of Conectas Human Rights, a NGO based in Brazil, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of this Council during the UPR Working Groups.

Conectas has participated in all phases of the Brazilian UPR: being part of the national consultation process, sending information directly to the UN, being here during the Working Group session, suggesting corrections to the final report and attending this meeting today.

Conectas welcomes all the corrections made for the final report that we are about to adopt. Nevertheless, we must indicate that some important observations were not incorporated into it. The report does not reflect the answer provided by Brazil about the measures to improve the situation of human rights defenders as well as the challenges and commitments for 2010.

Your Excellencies,

For us, the most important step begins now with the adoption of the final report:

- Referring to paragraph 81 of the final report, how will Brazil implement not only the fifteen UPR recommendations, but also the almost three hundreds recommendations made by the treaty bodies and the special procedures?
- How will the government take these recommendations and transform them into public policies?
- How will civil society participate in implementing these recommendations?

The government of Brazil has to answer these questions without delay.

Conectas believes that to be successful the UPR must comply with 5 essential conditions:

- First, the UPR must in no way replace or weaken the systems of Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies;
- Second, delegations should be more concrete in their questions and recommendations to the State under review which, in turn, must answer all of them;
- Third, the final report must be an accurate reflection both of the presentation by the State under review and of the recommendations made during the interactive dialogue;
- Fourth, the recommendations should be turned into concrete actions;

Last but not least, each State under review must engage civil society in every single phase of the review.

Your Excellencies,

To be successful, the UPR must be a continuous mechanism at the national level and not confine itself to a 3-hour session in Geneva.

Thank you very much.