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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Eighth session  
Agenda item 6

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Brazil**

**Addendum**

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented  
by the State under review**

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by the State under review**

1. Brazil expressed its gratitude to the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It stated that it was a great opportunity to be able to present the human rights situation in its country and the efforts undertaken by the Government to promote, protect and guarantee those rights in an environment of constructive and frank dialogue.
2. Brazil stressed that it was a great honour to be engaged in the whole process leading to the adoption of the first final reports of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review: the institution-building process, the preparation of the national report, its presentation and the outcome process.
3. Brazil stated that it was pleased to see the successful conclusion of the beginning of the first universal periodic review cycle. It was convinced that the implementation of the universal periodic review mechanism was deeply connected to the successful outcome of human rights system reform, which was aimed at leaving politicization and selectivity behind.
4. Brazil believed strongly that the universal periodic review mechanism constituted an innovative framework to deal with human rights defence in a multilateral system. It could serve as a good example to be repeated in other United Nations bodies. As the beginning of the first universal periodic review cycle was concluding, it was becoming clear that non-selectivity and transparency were the most efficient ways to promote true dialogue and to achieve real cooperation among countries.
5. The Brazilian delegation, which came to Geneva for the presentation of its national report and interactive dialogue, was broad and representative. Brazil stated that most of its members had previous experience in civil society activities. The delegation was headed by the Under-Secretary of the Special Secretariat for Human Rights, and comprised 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.
6. During the interactive dialogue, 47 States from all five regional groups commented on the national report, asked questions and made recommendations. Brazil stressed that such active participation of all States in the universal periodic review process vindicated its acknowledgement that, despite all differences, human rights were a common concern for all. Brazil regarded the review exercise as a valuable opportunity for international cooperation.
7. Brazil reiterated its commitment to take serious account of the recommendations made in the report of the Working Group, all of them accepted and acknowledged.
8. It recognized that, despite all progress achieved since democratization in Brazil, there were still many areas in serious need of improvement, and many issues still had to be addressed before human rights could be fully realized. Brazil acknowledged that it faced huge challenges concerning, inter alia, the reduction of poverty, the improvement of prison conditions, the empowerment of women, the protection of human rights defenders, the eradication of racial discrimination, respect for indigenous peoples rights, access to justice, the improvement of public security and the elimination of torture.

9. Brazil expressed its strong belief, however, that 2008 would be an important year for the promotion of human rights; a year of reflection not only on what its challenges were and on which public policies needed to be reformulated, but also on what had worked well so far.

10. Brazil noted that the eleventh national conference on human rights, to be held in December 2008, would be a major step towards a comprehensive evaluation of the human rights challenges faced by Brazil. The conference would aim at revising the national plan on human rights, which established the core guidelines for the elaboration of actions and public policies for the protection and promotion of human rights at the domestic level. The plan stemmed from a recommendation made at the Vienna World Conference, the final document of which was initially implemented in Brazil in 1996.

11. In the context of the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Brazil reported that the Government, together with civil society entities, was organizing important events, not only of national but also of international scope.

12. The regional preparatory conference for the Durban Review Conference would be held in Brasilia, from 17 to 19 June. The conference would bring together delegations from South and Central America, the Caribbean region and representatives of civil society to discuss what the region expected from the Durban Review Conference and how it could contribute to the review process.

13. From 25 to 28 November, the third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents would bring together more than 3,000 people in Rio de Janeiro to explore the challenges of implementing an inter-sectoral approach to the global fight against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Brazil invited all States and representatives of civil society present to come together for the third Congress so that efforts could be combined to combat that crime.

14. With regard to the Human Rights Council, Brazil was committed to launching a set of human rights voluntary goals by December 2008. Brazil and the co-sponsors of the initiative continued to count on the cooperation of all States in the elaboration of these goals in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

15. Furthermore, on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Brazil expected that a resolution would be consensually adopted at 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 were an important complement to the system of child protection established by the Convention.

16. Brazil also mentioned the holding of the first National Conference of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transvestites and Transsexuals and of the third Film Festival on Human Rights and Cinema in South America, among many other initiatives.

17. Brazil stated that its voluntary commitment to creating a national system of human rights indicators and the elaboration of annual reports on the situation of human rights, taking into account the follow-up to the universal periodic review, would be fundamental tools for the domestic monitoring of human rights.

18. Brazil also highlighted that, in the last week of May, a second public hearing, as a follow-up to the one held before the conclusion of its national report, had been held by the Commission of Human Rights and Minorities of the House of Representatives. On that occasion, civil society

organizations were able to express their opinions regarding the universal periodic review process and make comments on the participation of Brazil in international human rights forums.

19. Brazil pointed out that its commitments before the Council meant concrete actions in Brazil; along the way, the Government was open to a transparent and objective dialogue with civil society, because no public policy could be effective without its participation. Non-governmental organizations in Brazil had been partners of the Government in the improvement of human rights standards.

20. Brazil thanked all countries that had participated in the review of the Brazilian report, and expressed its gratitude to the members of the troika and to the States that had recently supported the reelection of Brazil to the Council.

21. It stated that it had great expectations for the consolidation of the universal periodic review mechanism in upcoming sessions and expressed its hope that it could contribute to that task.

22. Brazil seized the opportunity to reiterate its voluntary commitments. It stressed that its goal was to continue collaborating with the Council, to enhance cooperation with international mechanisms for monitoring the protection of human rights, to consider ratifying human rights treaties to which Brazil was not a State party, to support the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to strengthen regional systems for the promotion and protection of human rights.

23. Brazil also thanked various delegations for their comments made concerning their involvement and the commitment of Brazil to the improvement of its human rights policies. Concerning the comments made by the representatives of civil society, Brazil noted that its statement had been clear about its openness to work along with civil society organizations in the ongoing process. It noted that the public policies included in national report of Brazil and the report of the Working Group reflected the other steps that Brazil would have to take to address the main human rights problems. Brazil also noted that one of its main objectives was to develop a set of human rights indicators that would help improve and fine-tune the human rights policies already in place. Brazil highlighted that the national programme introduced in the country for the protection of human rights defenders had not been reflected in the final report of the Working Group, and that that programme was aimed to guarantee, inter alia, the life of defenders and their physical and psychological safety, to prevent threats and situation of vulnerability, and to implement active polices. It pointed out that, in some federal States, pilot projects were being implemented for the protection of human rights defenders, and that this was an indication of how the national process could be improved. Brazil also stated that the national policy on the matter had been launched by the President in 2007, and that a legal framework had been developed. It reported that one of the country's priorities had been to establish a national protection system that would rationalize all sectoral programmes under way in various areas, such as the protection programmes for victims and witnesses, human rights defenders, and children and adolescents.

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