



BRASIL

LXIII UNGA

III Committee

“ITEM 56: Advancement of women”

(New York, 13 October 2008)

Mr. Chairperson,

Brazil fully associates itself with the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of G77 and China, and by Mexico, on behalf of the Rio Group. In addition to those statements, I will make use of this opportunity to address some recent developments in Brazil concerning the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.

This year, Brazil adopted the Second National Plan of Policies for Women, which deepens and further details the Government's commitments established by the First National Plan, launched in 2004. It is the final result of intensive dialogue and consultations with all stakeholders, including civil society from all regions of Brazil. Its elaboration was guided by the principles of gender equality, women's autonomy, laic State, the universality of policies, social justice, transparency in public administration; respect for diversity, and the participation of civil society.

The Second National Plan has established goals, specific targets and actions to be taken in eleven key areas as follows: 1) economic independence and equal labor conditions with social inclusion 2) inclusive, non-racist, non-sexist, non-homophobic education 3) health, sexual and reproductive rights 4) eradication of violence against women 5) participation of women in Government and decision-making structures 6) sustainable development and assurance of environmental justice, sovereignty and food security for women 7) women's right to land, decent households and social infrastructure; 8) the promotion of an egalitarian, democratic and non-discriminatory culture, especially within communication and media 9) racism, sexism and lesbianphobia; 10) eradication of generational inequalities affecting women, with special attention to young and ageing women; and 11) managing and monitoring the Plan.

Beyond the legal framework, Brazil has launched the National Pact to Curb Violence Against Women, with a four-year budget of R\$ 1 billion (around \$600 million), which sets forth programs and resources to tackle violence against women in four main areas.

The first of these areas is the enforcement of the Maria da Penha Law, a pioneering and innovative legislation approved in 2006, which increases punishment for those who commit violence against women. The Brazilian Government has created an observatory mechanism to supervise the implementation of that law, in partnership with the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Women, within the Federal University of Bahia, six non-governmental organizations and four other university research centers. It has also created a hotline, the "Call 180", to offer help and guidance for women facing violence, which registered more than 124,000 calls in 2007 alone.

The second area is the protection of sexual and reproductive rights, and the initiatives to counter the feminization of HIV. To address the increasing vulnerability of women, a specific program has been adopted to improve access to prevention products, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmissible diseases and HIV/AIDS.

The third area of the National Pact to Curb Violence against Women is the combatting of sexual exploitation of girls and teenagers and the trafficking of women. To that end, the Government adopted a comprehensive program which articulates and builds the capability of local public services, and involves health, education and social work.

Finally, the fourth field concerns the promotion of the rights of women in prisons, including access to the judicial system, protection of sexual, reproductive and maternity rights, the reform of women's correctional facilities, and the provision of services of integral health, education, leisure and culture in prisons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me conclude by reaffirming my delegation's recognition of the work of all agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations which assist developing countries in the area of advancement of women, in particular of the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.