

Brazil

Question

In 2008, Brazil agreed to enhance access to justice as well as to improve the judicial system. Could the delegation of Brazil provide Canada with information on the processes established, methods used, and results achieved in enhancing access to justice over the past four years? What are Brazil's plans going forward to ensure that the justice system is continually improving and serving the needs of all Brazilian citizens?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Brazil:

1. Provide systematic training to judges, prosecutors and lawyers on women's rights and violence against women, including on the implementation of the Maria da Penha Law on domestic and family violence against women (Law 11340).
2. Ensure that urban restructuring in advance of the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics be properly regulated to prevent displacements and forced evictions, and that residents in affected areas are given full and timely information about proposals affecting them; engage in a genuine negotiation with the communities to explore alternatives to eviction; and, where necessary, offer compensation or alternative adequate housing close to the existing communities.
3. Ensure the availability of public defenders in all detention locations in order to enhance guarantees of due process.

Observations (if time allows):

We commend the creation of the National Truth Commission to investigate human rights violations committed between 1946 and 1988. The Commission will help prevent the recurrence of these practices within the context of Brazil's public institutions and will play a lead role in starting a process of transitional justice in the country.