

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Brazil

Thank you Madam President,

Brazil's commitment to promote and protect human rights is made clear in its legislation, policies and their engagement with international human rights mechanisms. In this respect, we would like to ask when the Government will submit outstanding treaty body reports? We welcome the visit of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and legislation creating a National Preventative Mechanism.

Whilst recognising the significant progress made, we note that concerns remain. These include allegations of torture and lack of access to healthcare in penal institutions. We also note reports suggesting that state military police commit acts of violence and extra-judicial killings. We would like to ask how Brazil will tackle this?

We urge Brazil to enhance protection of human rights defenders and its indigenous population. We are concerned at the level of impunity for acts of harassment, violence and murder against these people, particularly in rural areas. Reports of continued harassment of Brazilian journalists is a threat to freedom of expression and we hope Brazil can make progress to tackle this.

We would like to make two recommendations:

- Prompt adoption of Bill No. 2442 with amendments that guarantee the independence and autonomy of the National Preventive Mechanism members, in conformity with Brazil's obligations under the OPCAT
- Ensure adequate safeguards are in place to ensure protection of human rights defenders, including those working within indigenous communities