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***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
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Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review
Report by the Republic of Korea
Geneva, October 25, 2012

Madam President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Korea to the UPR. Brazil commends the efforts of the Republic of Korea for the timely implementation of recommendations made in the first cycle of the UPR. We take a positive note, in this regard, of the accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We are also encouraged by the enactment of legislation to allow for the provision of financial support to people with severe disabilities and the adoption of policies to promote mobility and employment opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Despite such achievements, there seems to be some room for further improvements. Reports indicate that single mothers face social stigma and financial hardship due to this condition. There are concerns that this situation may lead mothers to relinquish their children. We hope the enactment of the "Special Adoption Act", in 2011, will prevent "de facto" adoptions, in particular of children of single mothers, and ensure oversight of adoption procedures.

With a view to encourage the Republic of Korea to continue making progress on human rights, Brazil respectfully makes the following recommendations:

1. to combat discrimination against single mothers and their children;
2. to ratify the "Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children".

Thank you.