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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Mr President,

Brazil thanks Mali for the presentation of its national report, which presents a follow-up to the recommendations received during the first cycle.

Let me turn to the recommendation offered by Brazil in 2008 on the implementation of effective measures to fight child labor and children trafficking.

We wish to commend the Government of Mali for following-up on such recommendation.

In particular, we took note with interest of (i) the participation of the Government of Mali in a project to prevent and eliminate child labor in the West African countries in the period 2010-2014, aiming at contributing to the implementation of the national

action plan; (ii) the passing of legislation related to the fight against trafficking in people; and (iii) the signing of bilateral agreements between Mali and its neighbors with a view to fight more effectively against the trafficking in children.

Brazil is deeply concerned with the present complex and serious security situation in Mali.

We believe that all efforts to combat terrorism must respect human rights and the International Humanitarian Law.

The UN Security Council must monitor and follow closely the implementation of its resolution 2085 (2012) on the situation in Mali.

We call all sides to do their utmost to protect civilians at all times.

We have seen disturbing reports that ethnic groups most associated with rebels who have controlled Mali's north were being especially targeted.

The responsibility to protect must be accompanied by the Responsibility while Protecting.

We believe the international community should duly consider the regional efforts in assisting the Government of Mali in this complex moment.

In this sense, we took note of the decisions on Mali taken by the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which took place on 19 January 2013 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Thank you.