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Universal Periodic Review – 17<sup>th</sup> Cycle – Republic of Malta

30 October 2013

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Malta to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

My delegation is particularly appreciative of the precision of the national report presented by the Maltese government to the UPR. The document addresses in a comprehensive manner the issues raised on the occasion of Malta's last review, in particular the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Brazil also welcomes advances concerning the rights of LGBT persons, namely the introduction of sexual orientation and gender identity of the victim as an aggravating circumstance for punishment of criminal offences, as well as the extension of the definition of "discrimination" contained in the "Equality for Men and Women Act" so as to include discrimination against LGBT individuals.

Nonetheless, detention conditions of migrants remain an issue of major concern. Brazil recommends that Malta continues to follow up on the implementation of conclusions and recommendations which resulted from the last visit of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in 2009, and consider proposing a new mission by the referred special procedure.

Brazil would also like to recommend that the government of Malta accede to CEDAW-OP.

I thank you, Mr. President

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