



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva*

Chemin Louis-Dunant 15 -1202

Geneva- Switzerland

Phone: (+41) (0)22 332 50 00 / Fax: (+41) (0)22 910 07 51

E-mail: mission.brazil@delbrasgen.org

Human Rights Council
UPR Saudi Arabia
21.10.2013

Intervention by Brazil

Brazil welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

We commend the Saudi delegation for its comprehensive national report. We were pleased to learn both about the royal decree that enables women to acquire full membership of the Shura Council and about the accession of Saudi Arabia to two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC).

Brazil also takes note with appreciation of the Memorandum of Understanding for Technical Cooperation signed with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) to develop capacity-building projects.

It is nonetheless a matter of concern that Saudi Arabia is yet to ratify the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights (ICESCR and ICCPR) and still maintains restrictive reservations to core international human rights instruments.

In the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation prevalent in the UPR, Brazil recommends that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues its efforts towards aligning its national legislation to international human right law and, in this regard, lift the general reservation to CEDAW and reconsider policies which limit the rights of women to act as autonomous and equal members of the Saudi society.

Brazil also recommends the promulgation of a penal code that clearly defines criminal offences and the establishment of a moratorium on executions of persons having committed crimes under the age of 18.

Finally, Brazil would like to ask the Saudi delegation which measures have been undertaken to withdraw hindrances to the autonomous work of civil society organizations.