

ENGLISH VERSION – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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**Human Rights Council  
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Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to the second cycle of the UPR.

We are pleased to learn that the country has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, along with the creation of an independent mechanism to monitor this Convention, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Together with these important developments, Brazil encourages the Government of Cyprus to take the necessary steps to conclude the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We also take note with appreciation that the mandate of the Ombudsman was broadened, to function as the National Independent Authority for Human Rights and the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

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The amendment to the Criminal Code to criminalize public incitement of acts against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is a notable step towards the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT individuals, a process which deserves encouragement and recognition.

As a follow-up to the recommendations presented by Brazil in the first cycle, we also acknowledge the amendments of the Law on Legal Aid and of the Aliens and Immigration Law. Brazil recommends that Cyprus:

1. Ensure that asylum-seekers, while awaiting the reviewing of their status, are protected from refoulement and afforded equal and effective access to essential services;
2. Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of migrants by combating racial stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes, including through awareness-raising campaigns, and by enforcing legislation against racial discrimination in all areas of public life.

Finally, we would like to ask Cyprus to share with us some of its programmes and public policies on the promotion and protection of economic and social rights.

Thank you.