



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

Mr President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks the delegation for the presentation of their comprehensive report.

Brazil takes note with appreciation of New Zealand's commitment to promotion and protection of human rights, as attested by the general level of adequacy of its mechanisms and institutions, and, of course, its commitment with the UPR. These are positive aspects which deserve acknowledgment in face of challenges and opportunities arising from New Zealand's cultural and geographical circumstances.

Brazil welcomes steps taken towards greater realization of economic and social rights, and encourages the Government of New Zealand to persevere in its endeavors geared at improving local social indicators. In this connection, we commend the key national human rights priorities, in particular the strengthening of the partnership with the Maori community and the attention to human rights in dealing with the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes.

The progresses made on the improvement of women's economic independence, a recommendation by Brazil on the occasion of New Zealand's last review, also cannot go unnoticed, like the narrowing of the gender pay gap and the augmentation of women's representation in senior management roles. Brazil calls upon New Zealand to continue its efforts not only towards greater participation of women in high-level and managerial positions, but also to guarantee the right to education and professional training, in particular to young and minority women, as well as to teenage mothers.

In line with Brazil's participation in New Zealand's last review, we welcome Government's endeavors to address racism and xenophobia in education. We were particularly impressed by the development of a guide highlighting students' rights in order to prevent bullying, a kind of behavior rightly recognized, on paragraph 69 of the National Report, as occasionally linked to xenophobia and racism.

While welcoming these important and positive steps taken in fighting discrimination, Brazil recommends New Zealand to go further and tackle the challenges which still persist concerning the rights of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and their families. An eventual withdrawal of New Zealand's reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a declaration in support of article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination would be particularly welcome in this regard.

Finally, Brazil would like to express its readiness to engage in opportunities of cooperation with New Zealand, especially in fields such as rights of women, of minors and of indigenous peoples.

I thank you, Mr. President

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