Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Chemin Louis Dunant, 15 – 1202 - Genève

Universal Periodic Review – 19th Cycle – Dominica

1 May 2014

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Dominica to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

We acknowledge with appreciation the progress achieved since its last review, in 2009. Brazil was pleased to learn that Dominica has undertaken the review of its legal framework and administrative practices and policies with a view to strengthening the combat of domestic violence and physical abuse, particularly against women and children, a recommendation of the last UPR cycle. It is notable, as well, that the net enrolment ratio in primary education remains significantly high and that the country has achieved universal, free-of-cost access to primary and secondary education.

Nonetheless, Dominica is yet to take important steps towards the protection and promotion of its population's human rights.

Respect to sexual orientation requires urgent attention in Dominica. The fact that consensual same-sex conduct is still criminalized and that people who engage in the practice are liable to 10 years' imprisonment are matters of grave concern. Brazil, therefore, recommends that Dominica make every effort to reduce discrimination based on sexual orientation and consider abolishing all legislation which entail constraints to the realization of the LGBT population's rights, including laws which criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

Another area that requires more attention is the right to life. Despite rejecting recommendations to abolish the death penalty, Dominica has maintained a self-imposed moratorium on the practice since 1986 and, currently, no one is on death row. Nonetheless, Brazil believes that a step forward in this field is needed and, thus, recommend that Dominica take all necessary measures to establish a formal moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Thank you.