

ENGLISH VERSION – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



*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
19th Session
Universal Periodic Review
Ethiopia**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of their National Report.

The adoption, in 2013, of the National Human Rights Action Plan was a very significant initiative.

We welcome the ratification by Ethiopia of the International Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2010.

The National Action Plan on Gender and Development, which aims at combating gender discrimination, promoting gender mainstreaming in different national policies and increasing participation of women in all branches of the Ethiopian Government also represent a positive step. We acknowledge, in particular, the appointment of Ms. Aster Mamo as Deputy-Prime Minister.

As recommended by Brazil during the first cycle, we welcome the programs that were put in place to improve the literacy rate of girls and women. We encourage Ethiopia to continue its efforts to reduce gender disparities in education, which is essential for women empowerment.

We commend Ethiopia for the establishment of Children Rights Committees (CRC) at Federal, Regional and local levels. Efforts in promoting access to justice for children by the Federal Supreme Court, as well as Federal and Regional courts, are also noteworthy. While acknowledging the Ethiopian accession to Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Brazil recommends that Ethiopia

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consider ratifying also the OP to CRC on the involvement of children in Armed Conflict and the OP to CRC on a communications procedure.

Brazil encourages the Government of Ethiopia to continue to seek international cooperation to further improve the human rights situation on the ground. We would appreciate to learn more about the results of the visits of the Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Association and Assembly and on Torture; and of the Independent Expert on Foreign Debt. In this context, Brazil recommends that Ethiopia extend a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures.

Thank you.