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

Universal Periodic Review – 19th Cycle – Portugal

30 April 2014

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Portugal to the UPR and thanks for the presentation of their national report. We note with appreciation that, in line with recommendations made in the first cycle, Portugal ratified the OPCAT, in 2013, and appointed the Ombudsman as a national preventive mechanism.

We also welcome measures taken to combat domestic violence, including the adoption of the 4th and 5th National Action Plans against Domestic Violence. Portugal's innovative national drug policy, described as being a public health policy founded on values such as humanism and participation, is noteworthy.

We also acknowledge the reform of the Code of Civil Procedure, which improved access to justice. Challenges posed by the economic crisis are well known and undisputed. We encourage Portugal to continue to make every effort to guarantee that crises do not affect vulnerable groups, such as children, and to prevent the rise of racial discrimination and xenophobia against foreigners, migrants and minorities.

As highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, cuts of water supply in Lisbon are an issue of concern. We encourage measures to address this matter, including the implementation of a social tariff.

Brazil would like to recommend that Portugal:

1. further implement effective measures to prevent and prosecute manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, as, well to promote the human rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, roma and people of African descent; and

2. take measures in order to allow the co-adoption of children by same-sex couples, while we acknowledge the progress made in allowing same sex marriage."

Thank you.