



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
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**Human Rights Council
20th Session
Universal Periodic Review
Kazakhstan**

Mr. President,

We commend Kazakhstan for the measures and policies put in place for the reduction of poverty and unemployment. We also congratulate Kazakhstan on nearly achieving universal enrolment at the primary and secondary levels of education. The establishment, in 2013, of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and the adoption of an Intergovernmental Program of Work to Combat Child Labor are also noteworthy.

Despite these advancements, violence against women and children remains a matter of concern. We stress the importance of enacting specific legislation to combat discrimination and violence against women, in particular sexual and domestic violence. Also, we recall that the country should take all necessary steps towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, as recommended by Brazil in the first cycle of the UPR.

Discrimination against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers also needs to be tackled. The adoption of measures to foster equal opportunities for different ethnic groups could pave the way to development with social inclusion. Promoting the implementation of strategies to combat HIV/AIDS, particularly preventive

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strategies, and continuing the provision of free antiretroviral treatment to those living with HIV/AIDS are also of great importance.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Kazakhstan:

1. Define criminal offences, in particular those in article 164 of the Criminal Code on incitement to national, ethnic or racial enmity or discord, or insult to the national honor and dignity or religious feelings of citizens, in accordance with international human rights law, and giving special attention to the protection of the right to freedom of expression.
2. Uphold the principle of non-refoulement and ensure that all asylum seekers are given prompt access to accessible, fair and individualized refugee status determination.

Thank you.