

ENGLISH VERSION – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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**Human Rights Council  
21<sup>st</sup> Session  
Universal Periodic Review  
Armenia**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Armenia to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Brazil commends Armenia for the adoption of the National Strategy and the Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights and for the ratification of CRPD, in line with recommendations made by Brazil in the first cycle of the UPR. We also recognize important actions in the field of education, including efforts to promote universal access, to modernize the physical structure of school buildings, and to reduce school dropouts, particularly in secondary education.

We note with appreciation the development of a Gender Policy Strategic Program for 2011-2015. Measures to support pregnant women, including by granting financial aid, are also noteworthy. However, violence against women is still a matter of concern.

We welcome the constitutional prohibition of racial discrimination. This measure, nonetheless, needs to be supported by additional efforts for the enactment of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with the ICERD. We also encourage Armenia to provide effective protection to LGBTI persons.

It is also important to fully align the definition of torture in domestic legislation with international standards, particularly CAT. In addition, Armenia should step up efforts to ensure that the national mechanism for the prevention of torture receive adequate resources.

With regard to HIV/AIDS, we encourage the Armenian government to promote additional awareness-raising campaigns.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Armenia:

1. adopt legislation to prohibit and combat domestic violence;
2. develop a national programme on food security with a view to the realization of the universal human right to food.

Thank you.