

8

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM  
REVIEW OF GUINEE-BISSAU  
BRAZILIAN STATEMENT

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Guinea-Bissau to the second cycle of the UPR and expresses its appreciation for the country's engagement with the review process.

Despite challenges related to the attainment of full respect for economic and social rights and civil and political rights, we acknowledge and welcome recent positive developments in different fields of human rights promotion and protection.

The recent elections, held in a peaceful and democratic atmosphere, represent a significant step ahead. We call upon the new Government to keep its efforts towards the consolidation of democratic institutions in the country.

The peaceful and harmonious coexistence among different ethnicities and religions, a traditional feature of Guinea-Bissau's society, is an asset shared with Brazil, alongside our common language and history. Such respect for diversity becomes even more central at a time when racism and intolerance are a major concern for the international community.

Brazil would like to make the following recommendations to Guinea-Bissau:

- (i) To continue to strengthen and promote the rule of law based on effective and accountable state institutions, through, inter alia, the reform of the defense sector and the adoption of measures to foster independency of the Judiciary;
- (ii) To consider ratifying human rights treaties to which Guinea-Bissau is not yet a party, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

I thank you, Mr. President