



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

Universal Periodic Review – 21th Cycle – Guyana

28 January 2015

Mr. President,

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

Brazil recognizes with appreciation the advances which took place in the country since its last review. We note with satisfaction that Guyana has filled the vacant position of constitutional ombudsman, whose attributions will comprehend the investigation of threats and violations of human rights. We underscore that appropriate funding and staff are indispensable for the fulfilment of his mandate.

We also acknowledge the launching of "The Amerindian Act 2006: A Simple Guide", which translates into simpler and accessible language the legal terms of the original document, ultimately empowering indigenous peoples of the country.

Nevertheless, some aspects of human rights, including women rights and promotion of gender equality, need to be addressed.

The informal moratorium on death penalty that Guyana has maintained since 1997 is an important development and should be accompanied by a commitment to the adoption of the necessary measures to establish a formal moratorium, with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty.

Protection of LGBT individuals should also be strengthened. Brazil suggests that Guyanese authorities revise its policies regarding this particular group and guarantee protection of individuals from persecution, including through decriminalizing same-sex practices.

I thank you, Mr. President