

ENGLISH VERSION – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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**Human Rights Council
21st Session
Universal Periodic Review
Lao PDR**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and commends the country for their comprehensive national report.

Brazil welcomes measures taken by Lao to eradicate poverty and to promote development, including the implementation of the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. We also praise progress made in the combat against child malnutrition and encourage Laos to continue to work in this area.

The country's efforts for UXO (unexploded ordinances) survey and clearance, as well as the support provided to victims, are also noteworthy, as UXO continue to pose a serious humanitarian threat.

We note with satisfaction the ratification of CAT in 2012. We stress, however, the importance of amending the national law to include a definition of torture which is in line with CAT and to criminalize all acts of enforced disappearance. The establishment of an Ombudsman's Office or other independent monitoring body would also be an important step.

Inequalities among ethnic groups in terms of access to basic services need to be addressed. We encourage Laos to introduce in its legislation a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination in compliance with ICERD. We note that the Family Code has been amended to remove discrimination in matters of marriage and inheritance. We stress the importance of also reviewing legislation that restricts the interaction, including marriage, of Laotians with foreign citizens.

Brazil recommends that Lao PDR:

- 1) Continue to modernize its birth registration system and improve access to remote locations, and step up efforts to ensure free and universal birth registration; and
- 2) Ratify the ICPPED (International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance) and adopt implementing legislation, as well as mechanisms to independently investigate and identify perpetrators of those crimes.

Thank you.