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Universal Periodic Review – 22<sup>th</sup> Cycle – The Maldives

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Brazil welcomes the delegation of Maldives to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and notes with appreciation the efforts carried out by the Maldivian authorities, since the first UPR cycle, to improve human rights in the country. Despite the progress achieved, the promotion and protection of such rights still deserve special attention. Thus, Brazil recommends that Maldives:

- 1) take concrete measures to reinforce domestic democratic institutions, through the strengthening of judicial independence and of the freedom of opinion and expression, the investigation of recent detentions with alleged political motivation, as well as through the guarantee to opposition parties of the right to peaceful protest;
- 2) review and reform its legislation in order to abolish the death penalty and, in the meantime, maintain the de-facto moratorium, with a view to abolishing the practice in the future, avoiding, in particular, the possibility of children being sentenced to death.

Brazil also congratulates Maldives for adopting legislative reforms aimed at the implementation of the rights and obligations deriving from relevant international human rights instruments, especially through enacting the 'Domestic Violence Prevention' Act and the 'Sexual Offences and the Sexual Harassment and Abuse Prevention' Act, as well as its commitment to submit to Parliament a Gender Equality Bill, in 2015.

We were also pleased to learn that Maldives has withdrawn its reservations to Article 7(a) of CEDAW and has also submitted to Parliament a revision of the current reservations to Article 16 of the same Convention.

Thank you.