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**Human Rights Council
22nd Session
Universal Periodic Review
Panama**

Mr. President,

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

We commend Panama for accomplishing MDG 1 before the 2015 deadline and acknowledge efforts to mitigate the negative consequences of poverty and inequality. We welcome the achievement of universal enrollment in primary education. We also note progress towards promoting gender equality through the adoption of laws to prevent violence against women and criminalize femicide.

We take note with appreciation of the creation of the Anti-Discrimination Unit and of the adoption of legislation on the protection of indigenous peoples, in line with recommendations by Brazil in the first cycle. We stress the importance of ratifying the ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples, as also previously recommended by Brazil.

Discrimination faced, particularly, by people of African descent and indigenous communities remains a challenge. However, there are no legislative provisions defining acts of racial discrimination as offences.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Panama:

- 1) establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, in line with OP-CAT;
- 2) enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting discrimination on all grounds.

We note that birth registration of indigenous, refugee and migrant children, particularly in remote areas, is still a concern. We would like to ask for information on the strategies taken by the country to step up birth registration in rural, indigenous and border areas.

Brazil highlights the need for legislation on the comprehensive protection of children's and adolescent's rights. We also encourage Panama to implement measures and policies to promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons.

Thank you.