

***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office***

***and other International Organizations in Geneva***

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**Human Rights Council**

**23rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Micronesia**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Micronesia and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive National Report.

We welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in 2012, along with continuing improvements in statistical data concerning the protection of children, in line with recommendations made by Brazil during the first cycle. We encourage the country to ratify the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, signed in 2011.

We also commend increased national efforts to promote gender equality, including through the creation of an Office of Gender Affairs, also in line with the recommendations made by Brazil during the first cycle. We appreciate, in particular, the publication of the first report on violence against women. We remain, nonetheless, concerned that no woman has ever been elected to Congress.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Micronesia:

1) design and implement policies to prevent and combat discrimination on any grounds, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

2) strengthen measures to combat violence against women, as well as to prohibit corporal punishment of children and to set out the minimum age to work.

Thank you.