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**Human Rights Council  
23<sup>th</sup> Session  
Universal Periodic Review  
Republic of Rwanda**

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Rwanda to the second cycle of the UPR.

We would like to acknowledge important advances since Rwanda's last review.

The decision to extend and to honor a standing invitation to special procedures is a positive step. We hope that Rwanda will continue to benefit from their technical assistance.

The high participation of women in political positions is also commendable.

The same can be said about Rwanda's substantive contribution to important issues of the international human rights agenda, such the prevention of genocide.

Despite positive developments, we believe there is still room for improvement in many areas, especially in the promotion and protection of civil and political rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination.

Brazil wishes, therefore, to make the following recommendations to Rwanda:

- (i) to step up efforts towards ensuring freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, and to seek the assistance, as required, of special procedures, the OHCHR and UNESCO, in order to achieve that end;
- (ii) to strengthen national capacities in order to ensure respect for due process and access to justice for all, including through the application of custody hearings and the provision of affordable access to legal counseling.