



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva*

**Human Rights Council
24th Session
Universal Periodic Review
Belgium**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the second cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive national report.

We note with satisfaction Belgium's ratification of ICPED, as recommended by Brazil in the first cycle. We encourage the country to expedite the ratification of OP-CAT and to accept the amendment to article 8 of the ICERD.

We also appreciate the country's leadership in favor of the abolishment of the death penalty.

We welcome the development of two inter-federal action plans against homophobia and transphobia in 2013, as well as the incorporation of additional legal protection for transgender people in legislation.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Belgium:

1. adopt a national action plan against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including religious intolerance and discrimination;

2. adopt specific legislation on domestic violence, especially violence against women.

We express concern at the number of acts of discrimination against Muslims and Jews that have occurred in Belgium. We also acknowledge the persistence of domestic violence and encourage Belgium to ensure that all women, including migrant women, can seek protection from violence.

Brazil is also concerned that the level of poverty in Belgium has not changed significantly in the past few years. Vulnerable groups continue to face discrimination and obstacles to the full enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights.

Thank you.