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**Human Rights Council  
25<sup>th</sup> Session  
Universal Periodic Review  
Greece**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of the Hellenic Republic to the second cycle of the UPR.

We take note with appreciation that Greece adopted specific measures to implement the five recommendations presented by Brazil in the first UPR cycle, in 2011.

We specially commend Greece for extending the law on civil partnership pact to same-sex couples. We also welcome the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Brazil acknowledges the Greek efforts to secure humanitarian conditions while rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. We encourage Greece to continue addressing this ongoing challenge. At the same time, we consider that Greece could increment its efforts to fight xenophobia and discrimination, in accordance with international human rights norms and standards.

As a contribution to Greece's ongoing efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights, Brazil would like to make the following recommendations:

- a) further improve the access of minority groups, specially Roma and, in particular, Roma children and adolescents, to education; and
- b) ensure religious freedom and tolerance, by measures such as decriminalizing blasphemy and protecting the rights of religious minorities, atheists and agnostics.

Thank you.