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

**26th session of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**November 1st 2016**

Brazil welcomes Venezuela to the second cycle of the UPR and makes the following three recommendations to the Venezuelan Government:

(i) Take urgent action to ensure the full independence, autonomy and impartiality of the judiciary system and the electoral authority, especially with regards to the Supreme Court and the National Electoral Commission;

(ii) Refrain from recourse to arbitrary detentions and follow due process in all judicial cases, in accordance with international standards, in particular with relation to the arbitrary arrest of political opposition members, who should be immediately released;

(iii) Safeguard the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and expression, as well as freedom of the press;

(iv) Review its decision to denounce the American Convention on Human Rights and participate constructively in the Interamerican Human Rights System.

Brazil is following with increasing concern the evolution of the human rights situation in Venezuela.

Brazil expresses its deep concern over the decision of the National Electoral Council of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to postpone the process of collecting signatures from 20% of the electorate required to activate the recall referendum.

We call on the Venezuelan authorities to guarantee the full exercise of all constitutional rights and to take the necessary steps for the realization of the presidential recall referendum without delay, in a clear, transparent and impartial manner.

Brazil also urges the Venezuelan Government to safeguard the right to health and the right to food of its population, accepting international donations through appropriate humanitarian channels, publishing the corresponding updated data periodically and timely, as well as promoting the national production of food, medicines and hospital supplies, among other possible measures.

Brazil remains ready to cooperate with Venezuela in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.