**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**3rd cycle - 37th session**

**Review of Australia**

**Statement by Brazil**

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Australia and presents the following recommendations:

1) to take steps to recognize indigenous people`s legal status in the Constitution;

2) to ensure that asylum seekers have access to a refugee status determination procedure in line with international law,

Although we commend the closure of some processing centers, we remain concerned about offshore processing of asylum claims and we reiterate our previous recommendation to review this policy.

Brazil acknowledges Australia`s commitment to protecting and promoting human rights and commends the significant achievements in the realization of human rights since the last cycle.

We welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

We commend efforts to enhance protection of women`s rights and to promote gender equality, including in the country`s aid programs. We also welcome Australia`s decision to withdraw its reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Brazil recognizes Australia`s support to the promotion of freedom of expression and of freedom of religion or belief.