

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

***and other International Organizations in Geneva***

**Universal Periodic Review**

**29th Session**

**Tonga**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Tonga and expresses appreciation for its engagement in the third UPR cycle.

In a spirit of cooperation, we would like to make the following recommendations:

1) Ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

2) Take additional steps towards the abolition of child marriage, including by raising to 18 the minimum age of marriage.

We congratulate Tonga for the entry into force of the Family Protection Act, which recognizes domestic violence as a legal offence, and encourage its full implementation. Brazil also commends the country for the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development as a good practice to foster gender equality and reaffirm women`s rights. Brazil invites Tonga to continue efforts towards curbing violence against women.

In this regard, Brazil invites Tonga to explore synergies in mainstreaming women`s rights and women`s empowerment while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We furthermore recognize the establishment of the Ombudsman`s Office as an important step towards the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

Finally, Brazil would like to place on record its appreciation for Tonga’s commitment to the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, and wishes the Tongan delegation a successful review.

I thank you.