**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**31st Session (3rd cycle) - Review of Saudi Arabia**

**Brazil**

Mr President,

Brazil welcomes the Saudi delegation and thanks them for their presentation.

We commend measures promoting women’s rights to obtain driving licenses; access public services and conclude businesses without another person’s approval; as well as vote and be candidates in municipal elections. We encourage Saudi Arabia to take further steps to end all discrimination against women.

In a spirit of constructive engagement, Brazil recommends Saudi Arabia to:

(1) adopt an official moratorium on the death penalty and revise provisions that call for its mandatory imposition or its application for crimes not involving intentional killing;

(2) take steps to guarantee the exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression without fear of reprisal, giving due consideration to women and girls.

Brazil encourages the Saudi authorities to foster an environment of openness, inclusiveness and transparency, where civil society can thrive. Brazil also expresses concern at the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and calls for a thorough and impartial investigation.

Thank you.