

***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva***

**Universal Periodic Review Working Group - 35th Session**

LAO P.D.R.

**(21/1/2020 – afternoon)**

Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Lao PDR to the third cycle of the UPR and presents the following two recommendations:

(i) to consider an official moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards the abolition of capital punishment; and

(ii) to consider ratifying the ILO Convention nº 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957).

2. Brazil takes note with appreciation of the preliminary results from the "National Plan of Action on Mothers and Children 2016-2020", especially regarding the enhanced birth registration and lower rates of mortality and malnutrition among children under 5 years old. We encourage Lao to continue to implement measures to reduce maternal mortality.

3. We commend the country for the preparation of a new Plan of Action dedicated to People with Disabilities (2021-2025) and encourage investments in inclusive education.

4. Brazil takes this opportunity to encourage Lao to also guarantee the free and full exercise of freedom of religion and to protect Christians against any forms of persecution based on their religion, as well as to punish perpetrators.

5. We share the views from the Lao PDR that international cooperation can play a role in the implementation of voluntary human rights pledges and recommendations supported during the UPR process.

Thank you.

(209 words)

\*\*\*