

The Federative Republic of Brazil

Positions for the General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen)

I. Implementing the Durban Declaration: Measuring Progress Toward Eliminating Racism and Intolerance

“Our commitment to all Brazilian(s)...in their diversity is affirmed in the strengthening of democracy, in the struggle against bias and racial prejudice, in the firm action to counter discrimination and exclusion,” said Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil whom firmly supports the efforts to end racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances, which is documented in the Durban Declaration. In the Durban committee, Brazil stood out globally as a leader in the fight against discrimination affecting minorities, such as the case of the right to free sexual orientation. For many Member States, certain subjects may be considered as “taboo,” but states must recognize the occurring injustices within their borders. **Internationally**, Brazil recognizes the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance's Durban Declaration (A/CONF.189/12) “drawing attention for equality and justice under democracy, development, the rule of law and respect for human rights, recalling ... the important contribution to that struggle of the international community...” which generated from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993's World Conference on Human Rights. Recalling resolution 1997/74 by the Commission on Human Rights and General Assembly's 52/111 which iterates the concerns from the World Conference on discrimination. **Regionally**, Brazilian capital of Brasilia host the “Civil Society Forum of the Americas, Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference” in June 2008 with human rights activists with the chance to discuss how the government has dealt with eradicating discrimination as proposed in Durban. On a **national** level, further recognizing Brazil's support for the Declaration, Brazil's official statistics, and supported by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), show 47% of the Brazilian population is ‘black’ or ‘colored’, “which makes Brazil the largest Black country” in the Americas and second in the world after the Federal Republic of Nigeria, according to Brazil and The World Conference Against Racism by Under-Secretary-General for bilateral policy of the Ministry of External Relations, Gilberto Vergne Sabola, and Diplomat-Advisor to the Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic and Delegate at the Durban Conference, Alexandre Jose Vidal Porto. “The disadvantage of blacks in relation to whites within the general context of the Brazilian population is conspicuous in the business community, at universities and in hospitals...” In municipal and state assemblies, Brazil has aimed to pass anti-discrimination legislation. The National Council Against Discrimination has been established which aims to implement the recommendations from both Durban and reports made by the Brazilian Preparatory Committee. In 2003, President Silva created SEPPIR in effort to comply to the World Conference which offered more than one hundred thousand educational scholarships to Afro-Brazilians as well as health care programs in Black communities. In order to advance the fulfillments of the Durban Declaration, Brazil unveils its four point action plan titled **R.A.C.E.** The action plan calls for the: **R**ecognition of the Durban Declaration; ensuring that all Member States understand the concepts and recommendations that have developed from Durban so there won't be Member States missing conferences in regards to ceasing discrimination such as the 2009 UN World Conference in Geneva, Switzerland; **A**im and focal point to be place on discrimination as the key issue within' certain Member States; for example, if discrimination towards women far greater of an issue than with racial discrimination, then that Member State could be allowed to aim on that goal before completing the rest; **C**reation of departments similar to those created by Brazil to further organize the ideas, goals, and accomplishments to ease discrimination, such as the “Special Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality” which is a body that can provide direct advice to the leader of the member state; it was established in Brazil on March 21, 2003; a date that the UN resolved would be the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In order for this to work for all Member States, they will be suggested to appoint a role that will observe on the Member States' “Special Secretariat,” whose duties further include monitoring and coordinate existing policies from different ministries, secretariats and other government agencies so as to promote racial equality as well as formulate new policies involving agencies of the federal government; and **E**ncouragement of Member States to be as open as possible about the discrimination that goes on within' our borders and not to shy away from it but recognize it globally in order to aid other states with a discussion and solution.

II. Ensuring Global Food Security

The Federative Republic of Brazil understands that ensuring safety to all Member States' food is a high priority. Brazil, one of the rising powerhouse economies of the world, is fast becoming a major donor for humanitarian and development assistance programs through UN agencies. Brazil manages one of the largest national school feeding programs in the world with more than 34 million school children. On an **International** level, as of 2007, Brazil has donated over 17 million USD to the World Food Program (WFP). Of the money donated to WFP, 2.2 million USD was specifically given to strengthen the capacity for school feeding programs worldwide which includes supplying mid-morning snacks, nutritious breakfasts, and ensuring children get the micronutrients they need. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has stated that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), along with the

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WFP are essential for food security in the developing world. **Regionally**, Brazil is the largest Latin-American donor to the WFP. Brazil has assisted in emergency operations in Haiti where Brazilian-led UN peacekeeping forces supported and secured food distributions before and after the January 12, 2010, Haitian earthquake. In terms of agriculture and food safety, Brazil has worked with the Organization of American States (OAS) in reaffirming the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in providing people with adequate and timely access to safe foods among the "most immediate challenges confronting our Hemisphere and the world." With the OAS' Summits of the Americas, Brazil recognizes the negative impact of people during food crises and the urgent need for coordinated action, therefore recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/235, Declaration of Port of Spain. According to IFAD, while the region as a whole is still on track to meet MDG1 – that is halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 - the situation is particularly critical in rural areas, where more than half the people are poor. Brazil emphasizes with OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert R. Ramdin in stating food security as "one of the most urgent issues of our times for the Americas." On a **National** level, the root of food security in Brazil goes back to the 1930s with nutritionists working to combat malnutrition in rural areas on Brazil; 20% of Brazilians are still said to consume less than the minimum daily caloric requirements due to lack of income or resources to produce food. Brazil established the "Zero Hungry" policy aiming to provide basic social services to more than 90 million beneficiaries in the country. Under its Food Security and Nutrition Program, food of good quality and sufficient quantity is considered to be a human right that should be protected by the government. The Supply Centre and Assistance Services (CEASA) launched the Food Security Program in 2001. CEASA created the Food Bank which buys directly from small-scale farmers of Brazil through National Company of Food Supply (CONAB) and donates to the poorest areas of the state. WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran said during her first official trip to Brazil, "The Government of Brazil and the (WFP) share a common vision of a world free of hunger," and gave President Lula da Silva the "Global Champion in the Battle Against Hunger," award in recognition to his vision and leadership to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in children in Brazil and worldwide. Brazil has developed a four-point action plan titled **T.O.F.U.: Transparency**: Member States must be transparent and verify on how much is going towards food safety within their borders and when donating; **Orchestrate**: to people receiving care packages on how to safely use the food given to avoid bacterial infections; **Frame**: better dates to perform safety checks and delivery dates to regions in need of food; and, **Understand**: For Member States to understand and utilize existing food and food safety organizations, from both an international and national standpoint.

III. Examining the Role of Women in the International Security System

The Federative Republic of Brazil emphasizes the importance of women having a decisive role in the international security system. Brazil will have seven million more women than men in 2050; this number presents the potential of human resource and Brazil's competitive advantage. At the **International** level, Brazil recalls its commitment to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security that calls on Member States and all parties to "include women at the highest levels of decision-making, especially in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements. As stated by Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, on Res. 1325, "The importance of involving and empowering women in all stages of the conflict is very much on our minds. In this area, as in others, our main concern is sustainability. Our goal must be to help permanently improve women's place in society." As a result, Res. 1325 builds on other international instruments calling for equal participation of women and equal opportunities in decision-making processes – namely, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Brazil reaffirms its obligation to adhere to CEDAW putting an end to sex-based discrimination on a worldwide scale. Brazil participated in the 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) High-level Meeting to enhance global focus on development issues and achievement of MDG3; key challenges were increasing women's employment opportunities with the promotion of favorable economic and legal framework, crossing cultural and social barriers, and ensuring good health. Brazil has signed and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) urging political and institutional changes have been implemented and progress guaranteeing the fundamental rights of individuals. Brazil recognizes the importance of establishing gender equality around the world and therefore is a member of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Brazil is firmly committed in promoting women political participation, taking part in women leadership workshops by The National Democratic Institute (NDI) which prepared and empowered women for political participation. **Regionally**, Brazil, as a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), directs its contributions to the Department of Public Security of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security: Women of Peace. This program trains women leaders, in communities where the National Program for Public Security and Citizenship (PRONASCI) operates, in such issues as ethics, human rights, and citizenship, to serve as catalysts of that program which was reiterated in the fortieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly (AG/doc. 5124/10). As an active member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Brazil encourages International Women's Day which calls for gender equality and women's empowerment as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated, "Are fundamental to the global mission of the United Nations to achieve equal rights and dignity for all." On a **national** level, the government of Brazil is constitutionally obligated to provide women throughout with universal equality and participation on both a state and national level. The number of women in the Brazilian national parliament reached its peak in 2009 with 9.0%, an increase of 4% increase from 1990. In efforts to advance women rights, Brazil created the National Council of Women's Rights (CNDM) whose aim is to promote policies to aid in the empowerment of women and ensures their participation in political activities. Feminist Center for Studies and Advisory Services (CFEMEA) actively participates in the national women's movement. The major theme for CFEMEA focuses on the expansion of women's presence in politics and power in civil society and State decision processes. The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) promotes the advancement of women at the national, sub-regional and hemispheric levels. Brazil proposes a three-point strategy entitled **E.R.A.: Empower** women in areas of education, healthcare, and economic opportunities to increase equal participation in positions of power in peacekeeping operations; **Respect** the multidimensional strengths of international, regional and national governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to serve as entrees for creating

opportunities to further the status of women; and, **Actualize** the programs of action encompassed in CEDAW, the MDGs and other seminal efforts to achieve worldwide empowerment of women.