

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

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

Thank you, Chair.

Brazil welcomes the OHCHR and UNAIDS for organizing this consultation, and takes the opportunity to share with you the commitment of the new Brazilian administration to appropriately respond to HIV.

The new director of the National Department of Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs), HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis assured that the actions underway will continue and there will be no disruptions regarding past accomplishments. His office will prioritize the reduction of deaths caused by AIDS, the halt of the spread of syphilis, the elimination of vertical HIV transmission, the expansion of access to hepatitis C treatment - towards its elimination by 2030 – and the employment of combination prevention, focusing on key populations.

The new director also recognized that, in order to achieve positive outcomes, a broad participation of collegial bodies and social movements, and the monitoring of the Unified Health System by society are needed. The challenge of effectively controlling STIs depends, to a large extent , on the willingness and the commitment of health managers and professionals, who must recognize the need to prioritize these illnesses, to strive for a good quality of health care, to increase access to diagnosis and treatment for all, and to strengthen actions to address the needs of key populations through community-based partnerships.

The most urgent challenges we face include the overcoming of barriers that hinder access to STIs integral care in the context of primary health care services and the need to address the increasing number of infections among the younger segments of the Brazilian population and key populations. These circumstances requires the development of intersectoral strategies that expand the dissemination of health surveillance information, education, prevention, professional training and technological development to respond to these infections.

The new director also reiterated our commitment to the fight against stigma, discrimination and prejudice, without which we will not be able to advance in the control of HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis in the country.

I thank you.