

**Statements from Brazil (national capacity)**

**Item 6 - Session 2, b: Systemic Racism: Status Quo, Symbolic Commitments, Substantive Change**

The Brazilian government is making every effort to present its national reports to treaty-based bodies and to respond to questionnaires and calls for inputs from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures.

(2) We believe only with sound information, including both official and non-official accounts of the reality on the ground, can a balanced approach be achieved when dealing with cross-cutting issues such as racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances.

(3) Last August, we presented our latest national report to CERD. In it, we elaborate extensively on the existent institutional and legal framework to combat racism, ranging from our Constitutional provisions, that establish that racism is a non-bailable crime, with no status of limitations, to specific pieces of criminal legislation that detail the punishments for such crime and also to examples of public policies and programs for the promotion of the rights of people of African Descent.

(4) Young persons and women of African Descent are recognized as groups that are disproportionately affected by violence and homicide.

(5) The support to affirmative actions is key, both as a symbolic commitment and a substantive drive to change. In the field of employment relationship and education they have played a key role in Brazil, by means of quotas and other support programs mandated by law, as well as greater social protection to domestic and informal workers. In the case of higher education, the implementation of the quotas for persons of African descent has been in place for several years, with positive results. Of course, much remains to be done and the efforts by the government and civil society need to be stepped up in order to further expand and consolidate affirmative action policies.

(6) It is also important to note that in the private sector voluntary practices have been adopted by some major Brazilian corporations to offer trainee programmes addressed exclusively to persons of African descent.

(315 words)