

Preliminary observations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on his visit to Brazil from 16 to 27 March 2026

Introduction

1. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Gehad Madi, conducted an official visit to Brazil from 16 to 27 March 2026 to assess the country's migration governance, including laws, policies and practices, and their impact on the human rights of migrants measured against Brazil's international human rights obligations.

2. The Special Rapporteur travelled to Brasilia, Boa Vista, Pacaraima, São Paulo and Curitiba. He met with the Minister of Labor and Employment, Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger (MDS), representatives from the federal government, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, Federal Police and the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE). He also met with state authorities, including State Secretariat for Labour and Social Welfare in Roraima, Legislative Assembly of São Paulo, and municipal authorities in São Paulo such as Municipal Secretariat for Human Rights and Citizenship, Municipal Secretariat for Social Assistance and Development, and Municipal Secretariat for International Relations. In the cities visited, he further met with representatives of the armed forces, Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, civil society organizations, including migrant-led and refugee-led organizations, the private sector, as well as migrants themselves from different nationalities, including women, children, Indigenous Peoples, older persons and survivors of trafficking, and various UN agencies. The Special Rapporteur also had the opportunity to visit the restricted transit area of the International Guarulhos airport in São Paulo. Finally, he visited shelters that are part of Operation Welcome including BV8 transit accommodation, Rondon I shelter, Jardim Floresta and Waratuma Tuaranoko Indigenous shelters, as well as the Integrated Care Center for the Elderly.

3. The Special Rapporteur commends the constructive way in which the Government facilitated his visit, including access to all additional locations he requested to visit. The openness of the Government enabled a frank and open dialogue on multiple issues. He also wishes to commend the cooperative approach of all authorities at federal and regional levels. He particularly thanks the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Brazil for their exceptional support in preparation for and throughout his full visit. He also thanks the UN Country Team, particularly the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, for the support provided during the visit.

Legislative framework and policy

4. Brazil's legal framework provides strong protections for migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, grounded in Article 5 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality and fundamental

rights to all persons regardless of nationality. The 2017 Migration Law (Law 13.445) reframes migration as a human rights and integration issue, ensuring equal access to health care, education, labour protections and social security for all migrants, irrespective of status. It rejects xenophobia and the criminalization of migration and establishes humanitarian visas for people fleeing conflicts or rights violations, among others. Irregular entry is treated solely as an administrative infraction, reinforcing a non-punitive approach. Brazil's refugee protection system, set out in Law 9.474/1997, incorporates the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol and the Cartagena Declaration, and establishes the National Refugee Committee (CONARE) to oversee refugee status determination and coordination. Refugees and asylum seekers have access to documentation, the right to work and inclusion in public services. The 2025 National Policy for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons (Decree 12.657) strengthens guidelines for protection, reception and local integration, promotes non-discrimination and participation, and will be operationalized through a forthcoming National Plan.

5. Overall, the Special Rapporteur observes that Brazil's legal and normative framework is broadly aligned with international standards and offers a comprehensive regularization system, ensuring safe, orderly and regular pathways for migrants and asylum seekers. This rights-based, non-criminalizing and open approach to human mobility stands out as a leading example in Latin America, particularly amid a regional trend toward more restrictive migration measures.

Operation Welcome

6. In response to the significant influx of Venezuelans, in 2018, Brazil launched Operation Welcome, a large-scale, multi-stakeholder humanitarian initiative involving more than 100 entities, including the federal government, the armed forces, UN agencies and civil society organizations. Built on three core pillars of reception and emergency assistance documentation and regularization and interiorization to other regions of the country, Operation Welcome has facilitated the legal regularization of more than 600,000 Venezuelans and supported over 160,000 in relocating voluntarily to municipalities across Brazil, particularly in the southern and southeastern regions with greater labour demand.

7. The Special Rapporteur visited Operation Welcome's activities in Pacaraima and Boa Vista, following the full step-by-step process from reception to interiorization. He noted the smooth, well-coordinated procedures for screening, registration and documentation, and was encouraged by the efficiency of the system, with most people completing the process from arrival to Operation Welcome to onward movement within 2–3 days. He also highlighted the Operation's role in enabling other services to Venezuelan migrants, such as access to shelter, family reunification, social support networks and employment opportunities. Operation Welcome demonstrates that safe, regular and well-managed migration is achievable in the region and beyond, and has become a well-recognized promising practice and a compelling example of effective collaboration between multiple stakeholders.

8. Nevertheless, 8 years after its establishment, Operation Welcome remains an emergency-driven ad hoc initiative focusing on Venezuelan migrants. To ensure long-term sustainability, it will be essential to transition toward a more stable model of assistance and rights

protection, embedded in the long-term national policies. Also, there is still a need for the assistance to be more anchored at the local level, and in the case of Operation Welcome to strengthen the role of the Roraima state government and municipalities with federal government's support, in order to enhance the resilience of local systems in responding to migration. This is particularly urgent, given reductions in international funding affecting UN agencies and civil society partners. Moreover, as Venezuelans are not the only group seeking protection and opportunities in Brazil, considering ways to adapt or complement Operation Welcome would ensure that migrants and asylum seekers of all nationalities receive equitable support and that human rights and humanitarian principles are applied consistently.

Brazil's asylum system

9. Brazil's refugee system is administered by CONARE, whose membership includes representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Labour, Health and Education, as well as the Federal Police. UNHCR and two civil-society organizations participate as non-voting members. Over the years, CONARE has introduced several innovative measures to strengthen efficiency and access to protection. These include *prima facie* recognition for specific nationalities and profiles, particularly in situations of large-scale arrivals, such as those of Venezuelans and Afghans, and the digitalization of asylum procedures through SISCONARE, an online registration and case-management system widely regarded as a regional good practice for improving accessibility, transparency and procedural efficiency. Despite these advances, chronic understaffing has contributed to a growing backlog, reaching 131,000 pending cases and over 6,000 new requests per month in 2026, thus affecting the timeliness of decisions. The Special Rapporteur is concerned that Brazil currently sets no statutory time limit for the determination of asylum claims. While he positively notes that asylum applicants enjoy access to the same public services on par with recognized refugees, indefinite processing periods fall short of international human rights standards and delay essential rights such as family reunification. He also notes that SISCONARE is available only in Portuguese, creating language barriers for asylum-seekers attempting to submit or update their claims.

10. The Special Rapporteur notes with concern that, at present, seeking asylum is the only migratory pathway available to some nationalities, regardless of the nature of their needs. The Special Rapporteur wishes to draw particular attention to the situation of Cuban nationals, whose arrivals have sharply increased since 2024, now representing Brazil's largest asylum-seeking caseload. Many Cubans resort to asylum claims as the only available migratory pathway, yet recognition rates remain extremely low: in 2025 alone, more than 41,000 Cubans applied for asylum, with very few receiving refugee status. The Special Rapporteur notes with concern that Cuban applicants who do not meet the criteria for refugee status would, upon rejection of their asylum application, be left without a regular status in Brazil. He understands that the Government is exploring tailored solutions for this population and urges an expedited, rights-based approach to avoid further backlog and ensure timely protection for all individuals with pending claims before CONARE. The Special Rapporteur is also concerned about the situation of the Palestinian migrants, as the absence of valid passports in many cases puts them in the situation of statelessness.

Access to asylum at Guarulhos airport

11. With an estimated 16 million passengers passing through each year, Guarulhos International Airport is by far Brazil's largest airport and a principal entry point for migrants and asylum-seekers arriving by air. In 2024, however, the Ministry of Justice issued Technical Note No. 18/2024, citing what it described as "*flagrant abuse of the asylum system by individuals and criminal groups seeking to use Brazil as a route for irregular migration.*" The Note introduced a blanket prohibition on asylum applications from passengers arriving at Guarulhos International Airport on connecting flights to other countries (without Brazilian visa). It further stipulated that migrants denied entry must remain in a designated area of the airport until their immigration situation is resolved or they are repatriated to the destination of their original flight.

12. The Special Rapporteur expresses appreciation to the Federal Police for facilitating access to detention/restricted areas of the airport, including the transit hotel, and for enabling confidential interviews with migrants being held there. Nevertheless, he stresses that government efforts to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling must not undermine the right to seek asylum. A prohibition for asylum claims at the border is incompatible with Brazil's international obligations, as individuals, regardless of the circumstances of their arrival, may have legitimate protection needs requiring individualized assessment. The decision on the admissibility of asylum applications at the airport currently rests with the Federal Police, which should not be the competent authority to make such determinations. While the Special Rapporteur was informed that certain exceptions are being made, he did not find any clear or publicly available guidelines on such exceptions. He received reports on discretionary decision-making, with some individuals granted the opportunity by the Federal Police to file an asylum application while others were denied it without clear criteria. Data from 23 September 2025 to 23 March 2026 shows that 253 people were denied entry, of whom 114 had their asylum claims processed while 139 were repatriated. As an example, among those repatriated were 41 Haitians, 9 Syrians and 9 Palestinians – nationalities that Brazil generally recognizes as having international protection needs. In the absence of an individualized assessment, such repatriations may amount to pushback/collective expulsions, prohibited in international law.

13. The Special Rapporteur also notes that individuals in situations of vulnerability, such as families with children, are transferred to the transit hotel, while others remain confined within the restricted departure area. In both cases, the migrants are deprived of liberty without due process, raising concerns that their confinement may amount to arbitrary detention under international human rights law. Conditions within the restricted area also raised concern, especially following reports of a migrant from Ghana who died there in 2024 after allegedly being denied prompt medical care. The Special Rapporteur is further concerned about limited access to information and legal aid for migrants held at the airport. Although he welcomes the presence of a municipal humanitarian post mandated to provide social support, the service does not operate 24 hours a day, leaving significant gaps in coverage. Moreover, due to resource constraints, the Public Defender's Office can only conduct weekly visits, which is insufficient to guarantee adequate oversight or safeguard the rights of migrants held in confinement. In the absence of continuous independent monitoring, the risk of rights violations remains high.

Access to asylum at Viracopos International Airport

14. The Special Rapporteur learned that, one week prior to his visit to Brazil, a chartered flight reportedly carrying 118 Haitian nationals arrived at Viracopos International Airport on 12 March. Entry was denied after the Federal Police determined that the majority of passengers were in possession of falsified visas. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the fact that, following advocacy by various stakeholders, the Federal Police eventually facilitated their access to the asylum procedure. CONARE will be reviewing their protection needs on an individual basis. MDS and the Ministry of Human Rights were also there to receive and assist the Haitians, particularly those in situations of vulnerabilities. The Special Rapporteur considers such approach a positive and rights-compliant practice and encourages its systematic replication across all international airports in Brazil.

Humanitarian visa and community sponsorship

15. Brazil introduced its pioneering Humanitarian Visa in 2012 for Haitians affected by the devastating earthquake, allowing applicants to obtain visas directly in Port-au-Prince and travel regularly to Brazil with authorization to work. This innovative mechanism was later extended to Syrians (2013), Afghans (2021) and Ukrainians (2022), expanding protection for people fleeing crises. According to CONARE, between 2021 and 2025, 25,921 humanitarian visas were issued to nationals of these four countries. The Special Rapporteur commends Brazil for establishing safe and regular pathways for individuals from countries experiencing humanitarian emergencies, thereby broadening the scope of protection. However, following the adoption of Ministerial Ordinance MJSP/MRE No. 60 (30 December 2025), this mechanism has become dependent strictly on the community sponsorship programme, which defines the granting of humanitarian visas through accredited civil society organizations that commit to assisting the migrants upon their arrival to Brazil. As of March 2026, the pilot programme supported the arrival of 457 migrants from Afghanistan, in partnership with five accredited NGOs. However, currently, other nationalities cannot access similar programmes, as additional regulations are still pending.

16. The Special Rapporteur considers that while community sponsorship is a valuable tool for expanding international protection and facilitating integration, it should function as a complementary pathway, not the sole mechanism for accessing humanitarian visas. Reliance on sponsorship and a limited number of available slots risks exclude individuals who lack access to information or networks needed to apply, thereby limiting their fair access to safe pathways. Moreover, this model places significant responsibilities on civil society organizations to manage beneficiaries' selection, travel arrangements and one year of initial support, effectively transferring core State obligations onto CSOs. As a country committed to the human rights of migrants and asylum-seekers, the Government of Brazil should remain at the centre of reception and protection efforts. Moreover, giving CSOs prerogative over beneficiary selection may lead to decisions that do not consistently reflect protection needs or objective vulnerability criteria. Additionally, the Afghan beneficiaries reported high associated costs, such as the travel to Pakistan or Iran – both affected by conflict and instability – and the only two countries where Brazil's embassies are currently issuing humanitarian visas for Afghan nationals.

Family reunification

17. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the Government's efforts to uphold the right to family reunification for migrants and refugees and notes with appreciation the numerous cases in which family unity has been successfully restored. He particularly commends Interministerial Ordinance MJSP/MRE No. 38/2023, which introduced specialized measures to facilitate family reunification for Haitian nationals, including notably the exemption of certain documentation requirements. However, the Special Rapporteur regrets that the Ordinance applied only to requests submitted up to the end of 2024. As a result, requests lodged after that date are again subject to the more stringent documentation requirements that many migrants and refugees are unable to meet, such as the legally translated and apostilled documents. The Special Rapporteur also received information indicating significant delays in the processing of the requests, often exceeding two years. These challenges are not confined to Haitian nationals. Afghan refugees reported similar obstacles. As an example, they were required to submit criminal background certificates from Afghanistan, which is not possible to satisfy, given the current situation in the country.

Migrants in situations of vulnerabilities

Women and girls

18. The Special Rapporteur notes that migrant and refugee women and girls face heightened risks of gender-based violence, exacerbated by intersecting vulnerabilities linked to displacement, gender roles and unequal power relations. During his visit to the Rondon I shelter in Boa Vista, as part of Operation Welcome, he observed positive measures adopted to strengthen protection and prevention. He welcomes the work of the multidisciplinary protection team of AVSI Brasil, which manages the shelter under the supervision of MDS. The team has introduced risk-mitigation measures, including improved lighting and enhanced monitoring around bathrooms, and established multiple complaint and feedback mechanisms, such as anonymous QR-code reporting, weekly consultations and channels facilitated through community leaders. The Special Rapporteur considers these measures a good practice that should be replicated across all shelters in the country to ensure a consistent and safe protection environment.

19. The Special Rapporteur also recognizes that migrant and refugee women continue to experience barriers to the realization of their rights, often linked to gender roles and power imbalances. Many face higher unemployment rates and less access to education opportunities, often pushing them into informal and precarious domestic work where exploitation is common. Migrant women with caregiving responsibilities, in particular, encounter additional obstacles in accessing formal employment, including the lack of affordable childcare. He is therefore encouraged by initiatives aimed at strengthening economic inclusion of migrant and refugee women, such as the "Empowering Refugee Women" project, launched in 2016 through a partnership between UNHCR, UN Women and the UN Global Compact. The programme supports refugee and migrant women to access dignified employment opportunities, and to date has trained more than 775 women, with 301 securing formal employment in São Paulo, and an expansion is underway to other cities.

Unaccompanied and separated children

20. The Special Rapporteur notes that migrant and refugee children in Brazil benefit from specific regularization pathways and protocols that facilitate documentation, including those implemented under Operation Welcome. At the border in Pacaraima, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), including those undocumented, are generally identified at entry or during initial orientation by Federal Police officers. These cases are referred to UNICEF, which conducts an initial assessment and channels children to the competent protection authorities, including the Public Defender's Office, the Ministry of Social Development and the Guardianship Council, to facilitate documentation and regularization procedures. These may include the submission of asylum applications, such as completion of forms and participation in necessary interviews.

21. Despite these coordinated efforts, the Special Rapporteur received information on significant protection gaps, particularly regarding the attribution of legal guardianship. Many children and adolescents arriving at the border report being married or travelling with adult partners, raising complex questions about the appropriate legal guardian. While migration matters fall under federal jurisdiction, the protection of children is the responsibility of state-level authorities, creating procedural inconsistencies and delays. Within the context of Operation Welcome, the absence of a dedicated judicial mechanism to promptly determine guardianship for UASC frequently results in extended waiting periods (reportedly ranging from three to eight months) before a decision is issued. During this time, children face obstacles to continuing their lives in safety and stability, as many services and migration procedures require clarity on legal representation. Beyond documentation, clarity on legal guardianship is essential to prevent further vulnerability and ensure that migrant and refugee children can access their rights without administrative barriers.

Indigenous Peoples

22. Available data indicates that more than 9,000 Indigenous Venezuelans are currently living across Brazil, belonging to diverse ethnic groups including the Warao, Taurepang, E'ñepa, Kariña and Wayúu, with the Warao comprising the majority. Many arrived without documentation, making asylum procedures their only viable pathway to regularization. During his visit to the Jardim Floresta and Waratuma Tuaranoko Indigenous shelters under Operation Welcome, the Special Rapporteur observed notable efforts to create culturally adapted shelters where the Indigenous Peoples are able to practice and preserve their culture, such as the provision of materials used in traditional handicrafts and communal kitchens adapted to cultural practices. Community-led conflict resolution mechanisms, supported by cultural mediators, have also been established to strengthen peaceful coexistence among multiple Indigenous groups. Discussions with Indigenous leaders living in the shelters highlighted access to Portuguese language classes as well as the ability of their children to attend school and later pursue employment opportunities. While the Special Rapporteur commends the Government and its partners for these culturally sensitive initiatives, he notes the remaining challenges to the sustainable integration of Indigenous migrants. He spoke with Indigenous individuals who have been living in shelters for five to six years, and data indicate that only around 1 per cent of Warao Indigenous People have been successfully interiorized through Operation Welcome.

Older persons

23. The Special Rapporteur visited the Integrated Care Center for the Elderly (CIAPI) in Boa Vista, the only State facility dedicated to supporting older persons aged 60 and above. CIAPI provides both day-care activities and long-term “institutionalized” care for older persons with specific vulnerabilities who lack family support. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the fact that admission criteria and services are applied irrespective of nationalities for Brazilian nationals, migrants and refugees alike. The Special Rapporteur also notes positively the awareness-raising initiatives undertaken, including outreach within shelters hosting migrants and refugees, to inform older persons about CIAPI’s services and encourage their participation in the day-care programmes. However, he observed transportation challenges which may limit access for older persons. Moreover, with 42 of 60 places already occupied and a waiting list in place, CIAPI is approaching full capacity. Currently, only 4 older migrants are accommodated in institutional care, while more than 300 remain in Operation Welcome shelters due to the lack of available slots. This situation underscores the need for additional resources and expanded infrastructure to ensure that all older persons can benefit from adequate care and are not left without the protection and support they require.

Migrants in conflict with the law

24. The Special Rapporteur notes that migrants in conflict with the law constitute a particularly vulnerable group, facing multiple obstacles throughout the criminal justice system. Limited access to justice, due to language barriers and lack of legal aid combined with the resource constraints of the Public Defender’s Office, prevents many from effectively defending themselves. The Special Rapporteur also received concerning reports of a high number of migrants, reaching over 30% of all incarcerated persons in Roraima State, including women and Indigenous migrants, many of whom become involved in drug-trafficking networks and illegal mining due to limited access to dignified employment opportunities. Frequently used as ‘mules’, they bear the brunt of criminalization while those higher in the criminal chain remain unaccountable. Moreover, upon completion of their prison sentences, migrants encounter obstacles in regularizing their migratory status, particularly due to documentation barriers.

Access to rights

25. Brazilian law guarantees that migrants and refugees enjoy access to rights and public services on an equal basis with nationals. Once they obtain documentation, they are able to access the Unified Health System (SUS), unified system of social assistance, including social welfare and cash-transfer programmes such as Bolsa Família and the continued welfare benefit for the elderly and persons with disability (BPC). However, the Special Rapporteur observes persistent barriers that hinder their effective enjoyment in practice. The absence of a structured post-arrival integration strategy means that, after obtaining migratory regularization or asylum documentation, many refugees and migrants are left to navigate the systems themselves. A major cross-cutting obstacle identified is the language barrier, which significantly restricts access to essential services.

Access to education

26. Under Brazilian regulations, schools hold the responsibility for enrolling all children, regardless of nationality or documentation status. In practice, however, the absence of a national school-inclusion policy results in highly inconsistent application across the country. The Special Rapporteur received reports of schools refusing enrollment, conducting placement tests only in Portuguese and being unable to receive migrant children due to capacity constraints. Families are therefore obliged to seek schools farther away, increasing transportation and logistical burdens.

Access to employment

27. Migrants and refugees remain disproportionately concentrated in low-wage, manual and entry-level employment, even when they possess higher education or professional qualifications. The Special Rapporteur received consistent reports that stringent documentation requirements, high fees, lengthy and complex procedures continue to impede the recognition of foreign diplomas, limiting access to dignified work and opportunities for career progression. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur wishes to highlight the practice of the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), which has demonstrated a strong institutional commitment to promoting migrants and refugees' integration into society through education and work. UFPR has established a dedicated platform for the revalidation of foreign diplomas, introducing flexible documentation requirements, including the use of examinations in lieu of documents that may be difficult to obtain, and significantly reducing associated costs. In 2025 alone, UFPR successfully revalidated 231 diplomas of migrants and refugees, a number that the Special Rapporteur understands to be unparalleled elsewhere in the country. He encourages other public universities to replicate this good practice.

28. Limited access to decent work increases vulnerability to labour exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery. The Ministry of Labour reported that over 63,000 workers, including Brazilians and migrants, have been rescued in recent years through inspections carried out jointly with the Federal Police. However, there is no dedicated inspection mechanism focusing on migrant workers, despite their elevated risk of exploitation. The Special Rapporteur underscores that preventive measures, not only rescue operations, must be prioritized.

Access to health

29. Although migrants and refugees are legally entitled to access SUS, many are unable to communicate their symptoms or medical history due to language barrier, leading to delayed diagnosis or inappropriate referral, which exacerbates their medical condition and impedes their right to health.

Access to housing

30. The Special Rapporteur received reports of discrimination in the rental market, with landlords frequently refusing to rent to migrants and refugees due to xenophobia or misconceptions about them. Rising rental prices in major cities exacerbate these challenges and increase the risk of homelessness. Even when migrants secure employment, wages often remain low, limiting their ability to access adequate housing and forcing many to remain dependent on

social assistance or temporary shelters. These structural barriers significantly impede migrants' and refugees' ability to achieve financial independence and sustainable local integration.

Racial discrimination and police brutality

The Special Rapporteur heard from numerous stakeholders that racism still remains pervasive and deeply embedded phenomenon in Brazilian society. Migrants themselves, particularly Haitians and those of African descent, reported experiencing discriminatory treatment by public officials and unequal access to rights and services. He is particularly concerned by reports that São Paulo's Operation Delegation, performed by the military State police, has led to racially-charged violence and serious rights violations against street vendors, which disproportionately affect those groups of migrants in the Brás neighbourhood.

Recommendations

31. The Special Rapporteur addresses the following recommendations to the federal government of Brazil:

- a. Allocate adequate annual budgetary resources for the implementation of all migration policies, including support to state and municipal authorities;
- b. Develop a comprehensive national action plan on migration with sustainable model of assistance and rights protection that will monitor the implementation of the Refugee and Migration Laws and ensure that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of all nationalities receive equitable access to rights;
- c. Expand safe and regular migratory pathways, particularly for people fleeing conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and other crisis situations, with priority given to those in vulnerable situations;
- d. Expand the institutional capacity of CONARE to ensure timely decisions on asylum claims to prevent prolonged uncertainty for asylum-seekers;
- e. Establish a strong presence for CONARE at international airports as the sole competent authority to conduct individualized assessment and decide on admissibility of asylum applications, regardless of circumstances of arrival;
- f. Establish an independent mechanism to oversee the conditions at the detention/restricted areas at international airports, including timely food provision and medical care when needed, and to ensure due process and access to information;
- g. Allow access to the detention/restricted areas to relevant UN agencies;
- h. Expedite the identification of a solution for Cuban nationals whose arrivals in the country have increased significantly in order to prevent further pressure on the asylum system and ensure adequate protection;
- i. Adopt a national policy on family reunification for migrants and refugees in order to move away from ad hoc policies based on nationalities, including more streamlined and simplified procedures;
- j. Conduct capacity building and training programmes for Federal Police officers, civil servants and service providers who come in contact with migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons on human rights generally and on the rights of refugees

and migrants specifically, including the equality and fundamental rights to all persons regardless of nationality, in accordance with Brazil's legislation;

- k. Undertake systematic and nationwide awareness raising campaign on the positive contributions of migrants and refugees in the communities, in order to combat negative misperception by the public and prevent discrimination;
- l. Increase financial and human resources to DPU in order to strengthen migrants and refugees' access to justice and safeguards;
- m. Develop national strategy on learning Portuguese for migrants and refugees;
- n. Develop national school inclusion strategy to standardize enrollment criteria for migrant and refugee children;
- o. While recognizing the autonomy of Brazilian universities, develop national guidelines on diploma revalidation, developed in consultation with professional associations and tailored to the specific circumstances of refugees and migrants;
- p. Develop a national strategy to enhance the economic inclusion of migrants, addressing the specific barriers faced by women, with meaningful participation of the migrant communities as well as the private sector, and support state and municipal governments in related initiatives;
- q. Ensure meaningful participation of migrants and refugees in the design and development of policies and action plans that concern them;
- r. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- s. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

32. The Special Rapporteur addresses the following recommendations to the state and municipal governments of Brazil:

- a. Hire Portuguese-speaking migrants and refugees as interpreters and cultural mediators in public entities, including reference centers, public hospitals, etc to ensure non-discriminatory access to services;
- b. Ensure a child-centred, timely and coordinated guardianship system within the broader migration and protection response, including through the establishment of a dedicated judicial mechanism to promptly determine guardianship for UASC;
- c. Develop a long-term integration strategy for Indigenous migrants that is in line with their collective rights, cultural identities and land-based cosmologies, with meaningful participation of the Indigenous communities;
- d. Provide additional resources and expanded infrastructure for state-run shelters that host migrants and refugees, including older persons;
- e. Pursue accountability for allegations of abusive conduct of police force towards migrants and refugees and review the inspection model of Operation Delegation in São Paulo and adopt rights-based approaches to regulating informal work of migrant street vendors;
- f. Given the high rates of imprisoned migrants, especially in Roraima State, strengthen the legal aid and access to interpreters to ensure due process.