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**39th Session of CEDAW Committee  
New York, July 25, 2007**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE 6TH BRAZILIAN NATIONAL REPORT**

### **OPENING**

1. Before initiating our presentation, we would like, on behalf of the Brazilian Delegation, to congratulate the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its 25 years of relevant work in the promotion of women's rights all over the world.
2. We would also like to pay tribute to the representatives of all agencies of the United Nations System and to the Brazilian women who throughout the feminist and women's movements are permanent sources of dialogue and encouragement, enabling us to advance in the achievements in the field of gender inequality in our country.
3. Brazil is one of the 50

5. Brazil is the only country in Latin America that speaks Portuguese. It is important to have a perspective of how difficult and challenging is to implement policies at the same level, with similar answers in all regions of the country. Also, it is important to understand that when the Federal Government approves a law, not all of them are immediately implemented. The states have to vote legislation and adjust plans and programs to make them effective in their territories.

## **PRESENTATION**

6. It is with great satisfaction that the Brazilian Government, represented by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, a body of the Presidency of the Republic with Ministry status, is participating in the 39th session of CEDAW to present the 6th Brazilian National periodical report to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. At this opportunity, I am leading a Delegation composed of nine members, representing the Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agrarian Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Special Secretariat for Human Rights and the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women. We are also accompanied by Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti, who recently was appointed Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, the first woman Ambassador to be designated head of this diplomatic Mission.

8. Reaffirming the political profile of the new Federal Government, in June 2003 a Brazilian delegation had the honor to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of CEDAW, in order to present the Brazilian National Report to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. On the occasion, the Brazilian Delegation paid off an historical debt of our country to the Committee, since Brazil had not submitted the reports requested in the Convention's text since 1987. Today, we return to the Committee to fulfill our commitment.

9. It is worth emphasizing that the National Report under examination today has been elaborated by a working group, coordinated by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women and the Ministry of External Relations/Department of Human Rights and Social Affairs. The working group was also composed of representatives from the Ministries of Health; Work and Employment; Education; Justice; Planning, Budget and Management; of the Special

Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality; Special Secretariat of Human Rights; and of the National Council for the Rights of Women–CNDM, represented by the Brazilian Women’s Articulation, National Secretariat of Women of the Central Workers Union and the Confederation of Brazilian Women.

10. We are present here with a high level delegation, to demonstrate that the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is a priority to the Government of Brazil; and with the firm belief that the building of a democratic country can only be effective with the participation of women in equality of conditions and access to power in relation to men.

11. We would like to remark that, after the latest general elections, in October 2006, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was reelected for a new 4-year mandate. As a consequence, political continuity will allow us to better implement economic and social policies currently under way, which can be further improved or redirected according to needs.

12. During his inauguration speech at the National Congress on January 1, 2007, the President gave special emphasis to the establishment of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women and the achievements of gender policies during his first mandate and reaffirmed: “We have expanded public policies and established State institutions strong and capable of assuring that this Country will fight, decidedly and permanently, all forms of discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation and age”.

13. In the newly ministerial restructuring, the appointment of Marta Suplicy for the Ministry of Tourism increased the participation of women at the ministerial level. Today, Brazil has 5 Ministers: Dilma Rousseff, of the Presidential Staff Office; Marina Silva, of the of Environment; Marta Suplicy of the Ministry of Tourism; Matilde Ribeiro, of the Special Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Race Equality; and Nilcéa Freire, of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women.

14. Since the presentation of our I/V Report, in 2003, Brazil experienced significant changes in its legal framework, as well as in public and social policies towards women. It is important to notice that the long-lasting demands of Brazilian women constituted the guidelines and principles adopted in the I National Conference of Policies for Women, in July 2004, which was called by President Lula and coordinated by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women and the National Council for the Rights of Women (CNDM). The National Plan of Policies for Women (PNPM), launched in December of 2004, was drafted in



black women are on the top, followed by black men and white women. Therefore, the perspective of promoting gender and racial equality must be present at the elaboration, execution and monitoring of all government policies, incorporated as a generating principle of democracy, development and social peace.”

20. And it continues: “The gender and race mainstreaming in public policies is based on the idea of elaborating a matrix which enables the orientation of a new vision of competences and holds public agents responsible for overcoming asymmetries in the different spheres of the government. The policies will be really efficient and effective if their differentiated impact on men’s and women’s lives is taken into consideration and if, in its execution, they allow the equal distribution of their benefits to the whole society. The democratic strengthening of a nation also does not allow any discrimination against people with disabilities, people with a different sexual orientation, young people, the elderly, migrants or any other social group. In addition, it is important that State actions are based on principles of transparency and social control, in order to provide a greater effectiveness in its policies”.

21. And concludes: “State actions in the field of human rights must be established both on the improvement of public institutions and in the strengthening of the dialogue with society. All national institutions must be mobilized to promote a culture of peace, to denounce prejudice and to disseminate the value of liberty, of solidarity and respect to others. The strengthening of citizenship also requires the building and consolidation of channels to propagate demands for rights, b1 tTw (chanTc0.14TJ( cit)5(i)0tti)5p also

mechanisms in all public administration spheres, by contemplating the diversities existing among women; 2) Contributing to the full exercise of citizenship and to the assurance of access to social and economic rights by women, aiming at the reduction of inequalities and discrimination in the gender perspective; 3) Implementing policies in the state sphere that promote the conciliation among home activities and to enable the change of the current sexual division of work; 4) Preventing and facing all forms of violence against women; 5) Promoting a cultural change from the starting point of disseminating egalitarian attitudes and ethical values related to the unrestricted respect to gender diversities and improving the value of peace; and 6) Contributing to expand the exercise of power by women, allowing their participation in all spheres of decision.

## **POLICIES FOR WOMEN**

25. In order to facilitate this constructive dialogue with the Committee, we will emphasize during our presentation some of the important achievements in women policies in our country. The experts of the Committee were able to obtain a detailed report of actions and policies developed in Brazil, based on the 6<sup>th</sup> Brazilian National Report and on the answers to the questions made.

26. With regards to policies for women, one of the great achievements of the first administration was the launching of the National Plan of Policies for Women, elaborated as a result of the democratic process of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference of Policies for Women, which directly involved more than 120 thousand Brazilian women, from all parts of the country.

27. The 1st Conference, held in July 2004 under the Coordination of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, of the Presidency of the Republic – SPM/PR and the National Council of Women’s Rights - CNDM, was an historic landmark for the consolidation of public policies for Brazilian women, providing the basis for the National Policy and the National Plan of Policies for Women.

28. The National Plan of Policies for Women – PNPM establishes directives, priorities and goals to be accomplished by municipal, state and federal governments, and comprises 199 actions, distributed into 5 chapters: women’s health; sexual and reproductive rights; facing violence against women; and management.

29. Its implementation, as of January 2005, became a responsibility of several bodies concerned (Ministries of Education, of Health, of Social Development,

# Culture, Justice, Work and Employme

approving the National Policy to Fight the Traf



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relationships and sexual orientation, using a teaching methodology at distance and dealing with those issues in a transversal manner, with focus on the gender issues. The pilot project, implemented during the period of March to September 2006, involved 6 municipalities from the five regions of the country and counted with the participation of 1,200 teachers. It was successfully completed, as the drop out figures did not exceed 19% of the enrolled students.

47. Another important program is the “Woman and Science”. This Program was elaborated with the objective of supporting current research programs and stimulating the elaboration and dissemination of new knowledge on gender relations, women and feminisms. The Program is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the national Council of Scientific Development, Ministry of Education and UNIFEM, and comprises three types of incentives: a public notice of research, the Building Gender Equality award and the National Meeting of Research Nucleus and Groups – Thinking Gender and Science.

48. The Special Secretariat of Policies for Women initiated in 2004 a partnership with the agency responsible for the elaboration of Government’s official statistics – the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). IBGE is Brazil’s main data and information provider. It meets the needs of several sectors of the civil society, as well as the federal, state and municipal government bodies.

49. At first, the need to produce and disseminate data to support to decision making process in the area of public policies oriee area Twęa 6( 8n6e6.2( aw,.3875 -101541 TI



Development) and the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro (State

was conceived in the 1980's and introduced a new paradigm in women health assistance.

62. We must also emphasize the National Policy for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and the measures contained in Family Planning, which were launched by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on May 28 of this year, in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

63. The announcement was made in the Women's Health International Day and during the 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the National Commission for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the National Pact for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality. This National Pact is recognized by WHO as a innovative strategy of social mobilization to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). All 27 states had signed the agreement.

64. The Family Planning program will reduce the number of clandestine abortions in the country, as well as the cases of undesired pregnancy. Its actions foresee the inclusion of vasectomy in the National Policy on Elective Surgeries and of contraceptives at lower prices at pharmacies and drugstores accredited by the *Programa Farmácia Popular do Brasil*. This is possible due to a subsidy of the Federal Government of circa 90%. The contraceptives package may cost between R\$0.30 and R\$0.40. The total amount spent with contraceptives had increased from R\$7 to 100 million.

65. The dissemination of information about these methods will also be expanded through a campaign and distribution of educational material with all the contraceptive methods. With such policy, women will have more access to the tubal sterilization (surgery for tube tying) at public hospitals. In 2002, there were only 268 institutions able to make tubal sterilization. Now, there are 1564 accredited services.

66. The government's objective is not to control the births but to ensure sexual and reproductive rights through a policy aiming at giving to each citizen the right to decide if he/she wants to have children, how many he/she wants to have and at what interval.

67. Also in the health area, we must mention the launching of the Integrated Plan for Fighting the Feminization of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, in partnership of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women and the Ministry of Health. For its implementations, the Plan has the support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

68. The Plan is the result of an intersectorial articulation and has as its fundamental element the fighting of the multiple vulnerabilities which contribute for the Brazilian women to be more susceptible to the infection by HIV and other sexually transmissible diseases. In recent years, the main knowledge in the fight of epidemics is that we must consider the social, economic and cultural elements that give structure to the inequality between men and women. The domestic and sexual violence against women and girls and the discrimination based on race, ethnicity and sexual orientation are expression of such inequality.

69. The establishment of these new programs in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases aims primarily at incorporating a gender perspective and ensuring of human rights of every people, which are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerabilities and of the occurrence of infections caused by unprotected sexual relations.

70. The Plan aims also at guiding the establishment and implementation of programs at the federal, state and municipal levels. Its main objective is the promotion of sexual and reproductive health through the development of intersectoral actions capable of accelerating the access to the prevention products, to the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmissible diseases and of AIDS, for women at all regions of the country.

71. It is important to note the development and recent implementation of a special policy for Afro-descendant woman. The ministry of health also pays special attention to lesbians, as well as indigenous and rural women.

### **Violence against women**

72. In the area of violence against women, the important point was the enactment of Law No. 11340, of August 7, 2006, defining policies for fighting violence against women.

73. At the end of July, the Maria da Penha Law will complete ten months since its adoption. During this short and intense period in force, some positive impacts on the society can be already noticed. The first effect relates to the growing number of services that compose the Women's Assistance Network. The country has currently 96 Centers of Reference, 65 shelters and 396 Police Stations Specialized in Assistance to Women.

74. In addition to these services, the establishment of Courts or Circuit Courts on Domestic and Family Violence against Women with civil and criminal competence is noteworthy, as well as the Public Defense Units for Women, as



Interdisciplinary Nucleus of Studies on Women and Gender at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

79. In addition to these institutions, three important feminist organizations participate in the Consortium: the Feminist Network of Health (Brazilian Feminist network of Health, Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights), Redor (Network of Women's Studies Center in the Brazilian Northern and Northeast Regions) and CLADEM (Latin-American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights – CLADEM/Brazil).

80. The Special Secretariat of Policies for Women has already transferred the first part of the funds for the implementation of the Observatory, which shall be launched on September 21, 2007, during the celebration of the first anniversary of the Law. The Observatory shall improve the social control of the application of the Law, by providing the civil society information on the situation of violence against women.

81. Notwithstanding the difficulties of the present situation of violence against women, we may have some ideas on the impact of the Law along the ten months from its adoption.

82. Through different mechanisms, such as the Ombudsman of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, the help line (Call 180) and the contact with those responsible for it, we may notice two important movements: the first one, a retraction and reduction of the demand in a first instance, due to the lack of information, neither from the claimants nor from the operators of the law; and secondly, a progressive and significant increase in the demand for actions on information, dissemination and building of partnerships among the different professionals of the services that comprise the Assistance Network to Women.

### **Women's Trafficking and Sex Abuse and Exploitation**

83. The National Policy for Fighting Trafficking in Persons, through Decree number 5948, of 10/27/06, was also approved in 2006 by the Federal Government. The decree strengthens the operations of the police at the borders, at ports, airports, highways and bus and train terminals. The policy established integrates actions in the areas of Justice and Public Safety, External Relations, Education, Health, Social Assistance, Promotion of Racial Equality, Work and Employment, Agrarian Development, Human Rights, Promotion of Women's Rights, Tourism and Culture. It establishes the notion that fighting traffic must be a transversal action.



84. Another important action was the establishment of the professional capacity building on the prevention and repression of traffic and on the assistance to the victims. All actions are being organized under the national Plan for Fighting Traffic, elaborated by an interministerial working group under the coordination of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, the Special Secretariat of Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice.

85. In the context of the new policy, the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women is responsible for: qualifying the professionals of the network for the assistance to trafficked women; encouraging the rendering of services at the Centers of Reference; supporting projects of professional qualification for the income generation; supporting non-sexist education programs, projects and actions; and encouraging the discussion about the structural elements that facilitate trafficking.

86. The National Plan is being elaborated through a process that relies on a strong participation of the civil society, which ensures that the final product will belong to all, and all will be committed to it. This process, however, cannot be too hasty, and should take a couple more months to be concluded.

87. Brazil deals with the issue of child sex abuse and exploitation in a completely integrated approach. One of the main strategies is based on a methodology that articulates and builds capability of local public services within the municipalities where the problem is acute. This methodology creates a network that involves health, education, social work and even public safety agents, preparing all of them in the specificities that this kind of crime requires.

88. The toll-free number made available by the Federal Government for child abuse reporting has had a 300% surge in the average number of cases reported daily, in the last 4 years. Among those, 87% of the reported victims are female. The number is particularly strong in the “siga bem criança”, a program designed to raise the awareness of truck drivers, a strategically large and mobile community in Brazil. Shortly a “siga bem mulher” will be launched.

sanitation, housing and hydric resources up to 2010. Without compromising the economic stability achieved, the actions aim at accelerating the country's growth and generate more jobs and income and reduce regional inequalities. The Program also includes stimulation to credit and financing, tax reduction and improvement of the legislation, among other fiscal actions.

90. During President Lula's first mandate, the Federal Government's economic policy succeeded in stabilizing the economy and building the grounds for growth as a result of income distribution. As a consequence, a significant improvement in macroeconomic and social indicators occurred between 2003 and 2006. The economic policy challenge for 2007-2010 is to take advantage of the favorable historical moment to stimulate growth of the GDP and in the number of jobs, by enhancing social inclusion and improving the country's income distribution.

91. The Program's actions and goals are organized under a wide set of investments on infrastructure and a group of actions for the encouragement and facilitation of private investments. The program also provides an improvement in public expenditure quality, with the contention of the growth in current expenditures and improvements in the public management of both fiscal and social welfare and security budgets.

92. The set of investments is organized as follows: logistics (highways, railroads, ports, airports and waterways); energy (electric power generation and transmission, oil and natural gas, and renewable fuels); and social and urban infrastructure (sanitation, housing, urban transportation, Light for All and water resources). The Program is the largest strategic program of investments in Brazil of the last four decades.

### **Education Development Plan – PDE**

93. In the area of education, the Education Development Plan (PDE) was launched in April this year. The Plan's priority is basic education with quality, on the understanding that investing in basic education means investing in career and technical and higher education, since they are linked directly or indirectly. It also means involving parents, students, teachers and managers in initiatives aimed at the success and the permanence of students at school.

94. The establishment of a national base salary for teachers (currently, more than 50% of those professionals earn under US\$ 400.00 for 40 hours of work per week); improved access of educators to university; the installation of computer laboratories in rural schools; the organization of a Portuguese Language Olympics, similar to the already existing Mathematics Olympics; assured access

to electric power by all public schools; improved school transportation for students living in rural areas and attention to students' health, are other actions developed by the Plan.

95. In the area of career and technical education, the main initiative of PDE is the establishment of federal institutes for professional, scientific and technological education. Such institutions will hopefully operate as centers of excellence in the education of profession

100. The Program comprises 72 actions and has its main axle in the integration of public safety actions and social policies to face criminality. The objective of the program is to face the social and cultural causes of crime, through actions for the prevention, control and repression of violence. Initially, Pronasci will be implemented in the country's eleven metropolitan regions displaying the highest rates of criminality. Its development will occur through the permanent articulation among federal, state and municipal governments.

## **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

101. Our understanding is that the great leap we need to make is to increase the number of implemented policies, and let them massively reach the Brazilian

105. Finally, we want to emphasize the permanent partnership we are experiencing with the agencies, programs and funds of the United Nations System, which are fundamental in the designed and development of important programs, such as the Gender Pro-equity, the Integrated Plan for Fighting Feminization of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, just to mention some of them.

Brasília, July 21, de 2007

**39th Session of CEDAW Committee  
Presentation PF the 6th Brazilian Periodical Report**

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