



Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva

71, avenue Louis Casati - Case Postale 165
1216 Cointrin - Geneva - Switzerland

Human Rights Council
Forum on Minorities
Geneva, December 16th, 2008

INTERVENTION BY BRAZIL

‘Ms President,

Distinguished experts and delegates,

May I congratulate you for the open and constructive way you are conducting the works of this inaugural session of the Forum on Minority Issues.

As a member of the Human Rights Council, Brazil supported the establishment of the Forum and hopes that it will fruitfully contribute to promote dialogue and further cooperation on the rights of minorities.

Brazil is also particularly pleased to participate in the debate today on minorities and the rights to education. We are convinced that the enjoyment of the right to education by all is a condition to the achievement of sustainable and durable development.

Bearing in mind the paramount importance of education as a tool to overcome deep rooted challenges in the area of social and economic development, the Brazilian

Government has carried out several activities aiming at achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universalizing education for all.

In spite of the progress achieved so far in universalizing education, we still face many challenges. According to our experience, we have seen that must go beyond providing access to education.

Brazil has also acted to guarantee access to education to specific communities that have been historically deprived from access to public services in general, such as indigenous people and afro-descendent communities.

It is important to guarantee equal conditions of education in areas such as infra-structure, quality and teachers' qualification. Discrimination is not restricted to the individuals themselves, but also to the manner in which policies are designed to them.

When it comes to students from discriminated communities, attention should also be paid to the follow up process throughout the whole cycle of education. In many circumstances, students prematurely quit school in order to seek work or to take care of children, especially among young women.

Finally, allow me to express Brazil's appreciation for the interventions made by all experts, particularly Ms. Eliane Cavalleiro and Mr. Renato Ferreira, whose comments and recommendations are important contribution to our common goal of guaranteeing and improving the enjoyment of the right to education by discriminated communities.

Thank you, Mr President”.

