

UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES (Nov, 29-30/18)
“Statelessness: a minority issue”
Intervention from Brazil (Painel 1 – Root causes and prevention)

Madam Chairperson,

Brazil considers the theme the Forum this year extremely relevant. The situation of vulnerability and discrimination of minorities is closely linked to the denial of their right to a nationality.

A human rights approach is therefore key to effectively address the issue, particularly through legislative and policy reforms. Brazil has been consistently pursuing efforts in this regard.

In 2007, our Constitution was amended to facilitate that all children of Brazilian citizens born abroad have the Brazilian nationality recognised. Our new Law on Migration streamlined procedures to determine the status of stateless persons and included provisions that facilitate their naturalization.

At the regional level, the Brasil Action Plan, in 2014, and the 100 Points of Brasilia, adopted last February, dedicate specific chapters to commitments and good practices on reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons in the Americas.

Brazil also has been making recommendations on measures to reduce statelessness to several countries in the Universal Periodic Review.

Brazil would like to suggest that the Forum consider the following recommendations:

- 1) States to implement the suggestions contained in the “This is our home” UNHCR report, and to present specific commitments to eradicate statelessness in the 2019 High Level Event on Statelessness;
- 2) the UN system to strengthen the provision of technical cooperation to countries seeking to update their domestic legislations in order to prevent and reduce statelessness; and

3) the United Nations to declare a World Statelessness Reduction Day in order to raise awareness and disseminate best practices on the issue.

I thank you.