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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 largest and most populous countries of the world, with a population of almost 200 hundred millions, half of them women. We are talking of 95 million women; spread all over the country which is a Federative Republic, divided in 27 states each one with their parliament able to vote their own legislation.

4. Brazil is an emerging developing country with an unequal distribution of income, uneven development and radical contradictions. In some regions such as São Paulo, you can find first-world-technology, but, in contrast, we have the Northern and Northeastern regions, with multiple areas of poverty and several social, health and educational problems.

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

accordance with these principles and guidelines. The PNPM principles are the basis and support for the federal government policies for the promotion of equality and enforcement of the rights of women.

15. The principles approved in the PNPM are the following:

- Equality and respect to diversity.
- Equity among gender.
- Women autonomy.
- Laical State.
- Universality of policies.
- Social Justice.
- Transparency in public administration.
- Participation of the society and social monitoring.

### **2008-2011 Multi-year Plan – PROMOTING THE TRANSVERSALITY OF GENDER AND RACIAL THEMES**

16. Every four years the federal government formulates a multi-year plan. This plan guides the whole action of government for the entire four-year period. At this moment we are working on the bases of the Plan for 2008 to 2011.

17. For this period, the Government's Strategic Orientation of the Multi-year Plan 2008-2011 underlines, in its introduction, the need to face gender and race inequalities, by affirming that "It is necessary to translate these orientations into practical initiatives and give convergence to public sector actions, by means of a strategy of development with growth associated with the reduction of social and regional inequalities, the promotion of gender, racial and ethnic equality and the sustained maintenance of prices and fiscal stability".

18. The objectives of the government define what policies will be pursued, with more emphasis, by the Federal Government during the Plan's period with a view to guide the formulation of public policies in the sphere of each Ministry, as well as the elaboration of a program that will integrate the 2008-2010 Multi-year Plan. Among the 10 objectives of the government, the fourth objective is "To strengthen democracy with gender, race and ethnic equality, and citizenship with transparency, social dialogue and assurance of human rights."

19. The text which describes this fourth government objective affirms that: "The democratic environment shall be permeated by the development of relationships based on equity, without gender, race and ethnic prejudices, with equal opportunities in all aspects of the social life. In the pyramid of inequality,

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, specially provided by the principles of transparency and social control. Such channels shall be oriented by the public policies, making the society active to revert the picture of iniquity.”

22. As a strategy to influence the formulation of multi-year plans of different ministries, the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women submitted a suggestion of sector objectives incorporating the perspective of gender; the theme was welcomed by several government bodies.

### **2008-2011 PPA of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women**

23. The 2008-2011 Multi-year Plan of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women is structured into three programs: Citizenship and Implementation of Women’s Rights; Preventing and Facing Violence against Women; and Management of Gender Mainstreaming in Public Policies.

24. And into six cluster objectives: 1) Promoting the incorporation of the gender focus in the formulation of policies and the improvement of management

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 Employment, Cities, Agrarian Development, Environment, Mines and Energy, Planning and the Special Secretariats of Policies for the Promotion of Race Equality, of Human Rights and Agriculture and Fishery), which demonstrates that it is a Federal Government Plan and not a program only of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women.

30. The implementation of the PNPM is overseen by the unceasing work of the Committee on the Plan's Articulation and Monitoring, established in April 2005. Eleven ministries are represented at the Committee (Ministry of Education, of Health, of Social Development, Culture, Justice, Work and Employment, Cities, Agrarian Development, Environment, Mines and Energy, Planning), the three Special Secretariats (Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality, of Human Rights and Agriculture and Fishery) and the civil society, through the National Council of Women's Rights (CNDM).

31. The Monitoring System of the National Plan of Policies for Women entered into operation in 2006 and is available at the site of the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women ([www.presidencia.gov.br/spmulheres](http://www.presidencia.gov.br/spmulheres)), showing the results of actions developed by all partner institutions, since the first year the National Plan.

32. For the PNPM effectively reach its destination, a formal commitment for its implementation is required from the state and municipal governments. The balance in July 2007 indicated 303 formal commitments signed, of which 24 with states and 279 with municipalities (20 capital cities).

33. The 2nd National Conference of Policies for Women will soon be held from August 17 to 20 in Brasília. The preparation of this second conference has already directly involved approximately 200 thousand Brazilian women, who have participated in the municipal, regional and state conferences.

34. The second conference will envisage the evaluation of the National Plan of Policies for Women and the discussion of the participation of women in spaces of power. As a result of this process there will be adjustments and improvements to the National Plan of Policies for Women for the period 2008-2011.

### **In the legislative sphere**

35. Important laws have been approved concerning the promotion and defense of women's rights, including 11 decrees, 4 constitutional amendments, 18 laws and 1 complimentary law. Among the decrees, the following ones stand out: No. 6122, of June 14, 2007, assuring unemployed female workers the right to maternity leave paid by the Social Security; and No. 5984, of October 26, 2006,

approving the National Policy to Fight the Traffic of People and establishing the Interministerial Working Group with the objective of elaborating proposals for the National Plan to Fight the Traffic of People – PNETP.

36. It is also worth calling attention to Law No. 11340 of August 7, 2006, which establishes mechanisms to restrain domestic and family violence against women, and to Law No. 11108 of April 7, 2005, which assures pregnant women the right to the presence of an accompanying person during pre-labor, labor and post-labor in the Public Health System.

37. In the fight of all forms of discrimination against women in the media, in addition to legislative measures adopted by the Brazilian government regarding the process of classification of audiovisual works for television and related media, the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women has developed actions against discriminating propaganda, such as the entities represented at the National Council for Publicity Self-Regulation (CONAR). CONAR recently requested immediate suspension of an advertisement posted in the site Mercado Livre, in which a man put his own wife for sale, under the following justification: “I am selling my wife for reasons that I’d rather make short by saying: I need money”. The text described in detail the supposed characteristics of the woman in an offensive, prejudiced and discriminatory manner.

38. In that same area, another successful initiative taken by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women was against the advertising company Overcom, which, in presenting new products of an Internet provider, utilized an outdoor with a boxer woman, with the following phrase: “Beat her because she likes it”.

### **Participation of women in the decision making**

39. The question of political participation of women, or, in other terms, participation of women in the decision making, has been of concern to the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women. We recognize that this is one of the areas that more work needs to be done. That is the reason why this is one of the main focus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Policies for Women.

40. On the issue of women and power, the Judiciary is still the most impermeable governmental organ. We must highly emphasize, though, that today the Federal Supreme Court is chaired by a woman, Minister Ellen Gracie. Moreover, the President of the Republic recently appointed Maria Elizabeth Guimarães to the Military Superior Court. She is the first woman to occupy this post.

41. Although in a very slow pace, the participation of women is increasing in the Judiciary Power. We currently have: in the Federal Supreme Court 2 women (18.18%) and 9 men (81.82%); in the Supreme Court of Justice, 5 women (14.28%) and 27 men (85.72%); in the Labor Superior Court, 4 women (21.04%) and 14 men (78.96%); in the Electoral Superior Court, no woman (0%) and 7 men (100%); and in the Military Superior Court, 1 woman (6.66%) and 15 men (93.44%).

42. At the international level, it is important to mention the recent appointment of Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti, who is honoring us with her presence here, as the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations.

43. Apart from its specific mandate, the National Council of Women's Rights (CNDM) is also devoted to the strengthening of the councils on women's rights in the Brazilian states and municipalities. For such purpose, the CNDM tries to strengthen its interaction with the existing councils, by informing on its activities, meeting the requests received and elaborating a data base with the statistical information collected. In 2003, there were 90 Municipal Councils and 20 State Councils. According to the CNDM's Secretariat, there are currently 205 registered Councils: 24 State Councils (including the recently established State Council of Women's Rights of the Amazon) and 181 municipal councils. The State Councils of Pernambuco, Rondônia and Sergipe are in the process of being established.

44. The implementation of the multi-year plan was strengthened by the establishment of governmental bodies of policies for women, which, during the period from 2003 to 2007, increased from 13 to 155 bodies, 14 of which are at the state level and 141 are at the municipal level (19 in capital cities). They are permanently in contact among themselves, as well as with the federal government, through the National Forum of Governmental Bodies, whose latest meeting was held in November 2006.

### **Education and Research**

45. In the area of education, I wish to emphasize the Program "Gender and Diversity in School", designed by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education (through its Secretariat of Continuing Education, Literacy and Diversity, Secretariat of Distance Education), Special Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality, British Council and State University of Rio de Janeiro.

46. The main purpose of the Program is to provide training to teachers from 5th to 8th grades of junior high school on gender issues, ethnical and racial

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 oriented towards gender equality, as well as the interest of social movements and other sectors of the society on relevant aspects of the gender relationships, resulted in the establishment of the National System of Gender Information – SNIG – with data collected in the 1991 and 2000 Demographic Censuses.

50. With the purpose of expanding the scope of such partnership, and considering the need of monitoring and evaluating the demands of statistic information on gender and the use of time, it was decided to establish, within the IBGE’s sphere, the Technical Committee on Gender Studies and Use of Time, with the purpose of influencing the different programs developed by the Institute, elaborating a proposal of Research on the Use of Time, discussing the insertion of gender profile in the next Demographic Census (2010) and producing quality indicators and information on the situation of women in Brazil, in the perspective of gender relationships.

51. So far (July 2007), the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women produced 42 publications, among other the National Plan of Policies for

Women, the Report on the Implementation of PNPM/2005, Participation of Brazil in the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW; Management/activities reports; Documents – basis for the realization of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conferences of Policies for Women; texts for the training of professionals and women on the gender theme and on the implementation of public policies for gender equality; products of programs implemented by SPM,(like the volumes containing the papers and scientific articles prizewinning at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Award Building Gender Equality, in the ambit of the Woman and Science Program); studies on themes of interest to the implementation of the gender policies.

### **Labor and equal opportunities**

52. On this area, the Gender Pro Equity Program must be highlighted. The Program was launched in 2005 and implemented as of 2006. Its objective is to promote equal opportunities among men and women within the business environment through the granting of a seal to the organizations that adopt concrete measures for the promotion of equity/equality within its field of action. The first edition (2005/2006) of the Program was devoted only to the public corporations and was implemented by large corporations from the electricity, banking, communication and agricultural sectors.

53. The closing of the first edition of the Program and the granting of the Gender Pro-Equity Seal occurred in December 2006. It was implemented by a group of 11 selected corporations: Caixa Econômica Federal, Eletronorte, Electric Power Researches Center, Companhia de Geração Térmica de Energia Elétrica, Companhia Energética de Alagoas, Eletrobrás, Eletronuclear, Eletrosul, Furnas Centrais Elétricas, Itaipu Binacional and Petrobrás.

54. The second edition of the Program, initiated in 2007, was extended to private sector organizations and other public institutions (in addition to state companies), and received the adhesion of 50 corporations. Although there is a greater diversity among the categories of organizations, the electric power sector is still the most represented one. The participation of 3 Municipal City Halls must be remarked: São Luiz/MA city hall; Paulo Afonso/BA city hall and Quixadá/CE city hall.

55. In order to implement the guidelines of the chapter on the Autonomy and Equality in the Labor Market and Citizenship, of the National Plan of Policies for Women, the Program “Rio: Woman Work and Entrepreneurship” was launched in 2007, through a partnership under the umbrella of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Federal Government (Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Social

Development) and the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro (State Secretariat of Social Assistance and Human Rights and State Secretariat of Labor).

56. The main objective of the Program is to significantly change the interrelation in the processes for local development and the vulnerability factors that influence the general life of women, particularly the poor and the extremely poor women, as regards the productive environment, the women's economic and financial autonomy and the posts they occupy in the labor market.

57. Another important factor is the participation of Special Secretariat of Policies for Women in the National Social Security Forum, established on March 7, 2007. It has as its main points for discussion: i) Long term reform; ii) Social Security diagnosis; iii) New financing forms. The Special Secretariat of Policies for Women has been participating in the Forum in order to expand the presence of women in the Social Security system and to ensure the already conquered rights.

### **Rural women**

58. Another relevant action, included in the PNPMM and developed by the Ministry of Agrarian Development, in a partnership with the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, is the Rural Female Workers Documentation Program. During two years (2004 and 2006), 556 meetings were held in 684 Brazilian municipalities for the issuance of documents. So far the Program have emitted 360 000 documents which benefited 189 000 women. The Special Secretariat of Policies for Women made available a pro-documentation campaign, broadcasted by the local radio stations through a radio program called MULHERIO.

59. With regard to the extension of credit to rural workers, in the 2003/2004 rural year (from July to June of the next year) until April 2007 (2006/2007 rural year), a significant increase was noticed, either in the number of contracts, or in the volume of resources. 18 554 contracts were signed, which represented a total amount of R\$117 470 000 in credit granted.

60. It is important to remark the increase in the access of woman to all lines of rural credit. In 2001/2002, the percentage of woman who acceded to credit was 10.41%; in 2005/2006, it represented 25.58%.

### **Health**

61. In this area, it is important to underline the Women Health Integrated National Policy, which was elaborated with the collaboration of civil society. It

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

determined by the Maria da Penha Law. Today, there is a total of 139 Courts and/or Circuit Courts countrywide and 15 Public Defense Units for Women. With regard to the courts, an observation should be made. In the State of Rio de Janeiro, 99 of them are the former Special Criminal Courts (JRCS) changed into Courts of Domestic and Family Violence against Women (JVDFM). If on one hand this transformation shows an openness for innovations proposed by the Law, on the other hand we must consider the potential risks represented by the reproduction and in continuity of old models for handling the violence against women, derived from resistances to innovations

75. Great resistance is due to controversies over the interpretation of the Law regarding the possibility of abandoning the process. In that sense, stands out the recent innovative decision from the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories. Its opinion in favor of the appeal against the filing of a process based on Maria da Penha Law, serves as a model and a reference to other states.

76. Another innovation introduced by Maria da Penha Law is the emphasis on the policy of prevention of violence against women. Such prevention implies the promotion of knowledge about the phenomenon of violence against women, either through the production of researches and statistics (as provided for in art. 8), or the inclusion of statistics on the phenomenon on the data base of official bodies (pursuant to art. 38). The need for such knowledge is due to the identification of the assistematicity and of the non uniformity of data on the violence against women.

77. It is expected that this picture can be improved with the creation of the Observatory on the Monitoring of the Implementation and Application of Law No. 11340/2006 (Maria da Penha Law). In May 2007, it was announced the Consortium that won the bidding for the implementation of the Observatory, comprising nine academic institutions and non-government organizations from all five Brazilian regions.

78. The project's general coordination is with the Nucleus of Interdisciplinary Studies about Woman at the Federal University of Bahia, representing the Northeast region. At the North Region is the Group of Studies and Researches Eneida de Moraes about the Woman and Relationships and Gender at the University of Pará; at the Center-West Region, the AGENDE – Action in Gender, Citizenship and Development and the Nucleus of Studies and Research on Woman at the University of Brasilia; at the Southeast region, the CEPIA – Citizenship, Study, Research, Information and Action and the Nucleus of studies on Public Policies on Human Rights at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; and lastly, at the South region, the Plural Women's Collective (*Coletivo Feminino Plural*) , the Themis – Legal Advisory and Gender Studies and the

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.

## **GENERAL POLICIES – CONSOLIDATING INFRASTRUCTURES**

### **Growth Acceleration Program - PAC**

89. With regard to the Government’s broader policies, it is worth mentioning the launching, in March this year, of the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC), a set of 50 actions involving investments in the amount of R\$503 billion in the country’s infrastructure, including the in areas of transportation, energy,

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 professionals of several areas of economics, as well as of teachers for public schools. The institutes will be installed in towns of regional reference, so they may contribute to the development of surrounding communities and help to solve the problem of lack of teachers in disciplines such as physics, chemistry and biology.

96. The Plan includes quality goals for basic education. This helps schools and States' Secretariats of Education to become organized in order to meet the students' needs. It also creates a background on which families can rely to demand better quality in education. The Plan also foresees monitoring and assistance to municipalities with low educational indicators.

#### **Fund for the Development of Basic Education and for the Valorization of Education Professionals (FUNDEB)**

97. Also in the area of education, the President of the Republic Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva approved Law No. 11494/2007, last June, which regulates the Fund for the Maintenance and Development of Basic Education and for the Valorization of Education Professionals (FUNDEB). The new fund covers the entire basic education, from kindergarten to secondary education.

98. With the new fund, basic education will cover 47 million students at kindergarten, childcare and special education, primary and secondary education and youth and adult education. The Fund will invest a total of R\$48 billion this year in basic education, and, from its fourth year of existence, R\$ 62.9 billion (based on 2007 amounts). The former fund allocated R\$ 35.2 billion per year to basic education.

#### **National Program of Public Safety with Citizenship Program (PRONASCI)**

99. The National Program of Public Safety with Citizenship (Pronasci) was adopted in July by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and will invest R\$4.8 billion in the integration of public safety policies with social actions in the country's 11 most violent regions. R\$483 million are expected for 2007.

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 women.

102. Changing the public management of policies in our country is one of the greatest challenges to the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, which is making efforts to improve the instruments that give support to the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies devoted to the gender equality. In this perspective, it is worth mentioning the initiatives with different sectors for the inclusion of data regarding gender, race/color and ethnicity in all data bases and administrative records that are the basis for the production of indicators for public policies; likewise, we intend to expand and improve the information and indicators that give support to the decision-making process, which constitute stages of qualified discussion (such as the Technical Committee, at IBGE, in partnership with other institutions) and taking part in different national and international events for the same purpose.

103. The predictability of budgetary funds for the accomplishment of priorities and goals agreed in the national Plan of Policies for Women can be also referred to among the challenges faced by the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women, as the coordinator of the process of mainstreaming a gender perspective in public policies.

104. In this perspective, the Special Secretariat of Policies for Women is making efforts to contribute to the process for the formulation of the Multi-year Investments Plan (PPA) for the period 2008-2011, from different Government sectors that integrate the network of partners in the implementation of PNPM. By presenting proposals for the introduction of a gender perspective in the sectoral objectives, the Special Secretariat has been finding a good reception by several government bodies. This illustrates the narrowing of the interinstitutional relations and the feasibility of commitments formally assumed, through the allocation of funds to programs and projects oriented to gender equality.

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**

**Brazilian Delegation**

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