Mr. President,

As a longstanding co-sponsor of the resolution "Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace", Brazil is committed to the promotion of sports as an instrument for development and peace.

Sports are deeply rooted in Brazilian culture and society. Our Constitution recognizes the practice of sport as a fundamental social right - in line with UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, which declares sport and physical education a “fundamental right for all”. Moreover, the Brazilian Government firmly believes in the potential of sport as an important factor for social inclusiveness, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The General Assembly resolutions and the Secretary-General's reports on this issue have rightly recognized the role of sport as a means to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They will be equally instrumental to the promotion of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

Brazil also sees sport's potential to promote peace and unity. In this context, we recall the historical match held between the Brazilian and Haitian National Soccer Selections in August of 2004 when, attending to an invitation by the Prime Minister of Haiti, the Brazilian National Team traveled to Haiti to play a "Game for Peace". The parade of Brazilian athletes along the 15-kilometer route to the stadium was followed by thousands of Haitians, who for some hours put
aside their differences and united themselves around a common goal. The episode had long-lasting effects, represented a communion of interests, joy and peace in a moment of political tension and instability, and illustrates how politics and sports, history and solidarity can walk side by side.

Mr. President,

Brazil is currently in the middle of a sports-centered decade. We hosted the Confederations Cup in 2013, the FIFA World Cup earlier this year and will host, in September 2015 the First World Indigenous Games, and in 2016 the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The decision to present the postulation to host these large sporting events is consistent with the priority accorded by Brazil to the promotion of sustainable development and social inclusiveness. In order to prepare for them, the Government has been paying special attention to the human, social and development dimensions they encompass.

Brazil is a strong advocate of the potential of sports for ending discrimination. Together with FIFA, we worked towards a World Cup that could convey the message against discrimination and intolerance, under the campaign “Say No to Racism”, carried out during the Cup.

In the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, in March, Brazil integrated the core group that presented the resolution entitled "Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal", approved by consensus, with more than 130 co-sponsors.

The resolution recognizes sport as a universal language that has the potential to contribute to educating people on the values of respect, diversity, tolerance and fairness, and as a means to combat all forms of discrimination and promote social inclusion for all.

It also reaffirms the need to combat discrimination and intolerance wherever they occur, within and outside the sporting context. It is therefore an important tool to fight discrimination of any kind.

In this same vein, Brazil was also one of the co-sponsors of Human Rights Council resolution 27/32 on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, and an active member of the LGBT Core Group at the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The importance of sport is recognized also in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During the opening of the 2012 Paralympic Games, the Brazilian Government signed a joint declaration with the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea on the role of the games in the promotion of human rights and of values such as accessibility, social inclusion, non-discrimination, equality and respect.

It is in this spirit that we will welcome the world to our country as hosts of the First World Indigenous Games in 2015 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016.

Thank you.