BRAZIL

Third Committee – Item 65 – Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children

68th General Assembly

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank the Secretary General, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative on Violence against Children, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for their in-depth reports, which provide invaluable elements for our discussions in this Committee.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the intervention made by the delegation of Cuba, on behalf of CELAC, and would like to add the following comments.

Last week, Brazil was honored to host the III Global Conference on Child Labour. Intergovernmental Organizations, civil society and NGOs from over 150 countries participated in the event. We focused our efforts on ways to accelerate the elimination of the worst forms of child labor by 2016. We will work on the basis of the "Roadmap" adopted at the Hague Global Child Labor Conference in 2010.

In Brasilia, we took a decisive step towards consolidating the concept of sustained eradication of child labor. Any solution must be permanent. And preventing regression requires dealing with the root causes of the problem. We have to focus not only on law enforcement, but also on measures to promote social inclusion, quality education, child health and decent work opportunities for adults.

The Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour, adopted by consensus, reaffirmed the overarching goal of the sustained eradication of all child labor, in particular its worst forms, by 2016.

Brazil is making good progress. By implementing public policies designed and carried out in close cooperation with civil society, the number of children and adolescents between 5 and 17 years old in child labor situation was reduced by 57% between 1992 and 2011.

Conditional cash transfer programs have proven to be critical in this process, allowing families in economically vulnerable situations to sustain a certain level of family income while sending their children to school instead of work.

Brazil has also implemented a 24 hour national hotline “Disque 100” (Dial 100) and a public awareness campaign to assist victims of child exploitation and collect information relevant for criminal investigations and persecutions.

Brazil considers children and adolescents an absolute priority. The state, society at large and the family are together responsible for their full protection.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols are milestones. Last year Brazil signed the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, which allows
individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention. We fully support the ongoing campaign for the universal ratification of the Optional Protocols and encourage Member States that have not yet done so to ratify these fundamental human rights instruments.

Following the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the General Assembly in 1990, and in line with its provisions, Brazil enacted the “Statute of the Child and the Adolescent” (Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente - ECA).

Last year, a law was passed in order to implement the National System for Socio-Educational Assistance (SINASE). Its goal is to strengthen legislation and public policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents who have had trouble with the law, providing them support in such as education, health, public security and social assistance. SINASE recommends that penalties for infringement of the law be individualized, and that they take into account such factors such as disabilities or chemical dependencies. It seeks to ensure young people's rights to education and opportunity for professional capacity-building.

The protection of early childhood and access to education are critical to the eradication of extreme poverty. To address these challenges, President Dilma Rousseff has launched a new federal program called “Brasil Carinhoso”, which complements the “Bolsa Família” cash transfer program and benefits approximately 2 million extremely poor families with children up to 6 years of age. This initiative increases the number of daycare centers, broadens the coverage of national health programs and provides for the distribution of medicines to treat asthma and vitamin A deficiency.

Mr. Chairman,

Next year marks the 5th anniversary since the adoption of the "Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children", approved by consensus in 2009 through resolution A/RES/64/142. The Guidelines provide a coherent policy framework in support of children deprived of parental care and are instrumental in protecting them from violence. Around the world, the number of children separated from their families due to conflict, migration or extreme poverty is on the rise. Without the protection of their families, these children are exposed to higher risks of exploitation, abuse and other violations and often experience a downward spiral of economic, social and structural exclusion and marginalization.

We therefore call on Member States to take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Guidelines on Alternative Care, with a view to enhancing our efforts in the care and protection of children within the post-2015 framework.

We would also like to bring to the attention of this Committee the achievements of the III World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, which took
place in Rio de Janeiro, in 2008. The event fostered important commitments to fight child pornography on the internet as well as the trafficking in children and adolescents for sexual exploitation.

At the regional level, Brazil is proud of the efforts implemented by Mercosur members to protect children’s rights. The joint strategy against sexual exploitation – namely Nin@Sur - is actually being implemented in more than fifteen border towns across Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me also to announce that Brazil will host the XXI Pan American Child Congress in partnership with the Interamerican Institute of the Child (IIN) in December 2014.

We count on participation at the highest possible level so as to increase the political momentum in favor of the rights of children and adolescents in the region. We also expect major attendance by civil society organizations and the presence of children to speak on their own behalf before us all.

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm the Brazilian view that no effort should be spared in order to guarantee that every child is provided with appropriate care and protection to enjoy their infancy free from any kind of violence and abuse.

Thank You.