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BRAZIL

Item 70 (a, b): Rights of indigenous peoples

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN**

70th United Nations General Assembly
Third Committee
New York, October 19, 2015

Mr. Chair,

Brazil associates itself with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of CELAC and the Group of Friends on indigenous issues.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil is committed to the continuous implementation of UNDRIP and the Outcome Document of the World Conference. In this spirit, and bearing in mind the provisions of the Declaration regarding the participation of indigenous peoples in the political life of States, particularly on matters affecting their rights, Brazil will host this December its first National Conference on Indigenous Policies. As its name suggests, the Conference will cover the whole range of public policies concerning indigenous issues in Brazil. The Conference will be the culmination of a preparatory process

carried out along this whole year, comprising two-hundred meetings and seminars at local and regional levels.

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Declaration regarding the preservation and promotion of indigenous peoples' cultures, it is also worth noting that the I World Indigenous Games will be held in the city of Palmas, Brazil, from 23 October to 1 November. Organised by Brazilian and foreign indigenous organisations with the support of the Brazilian government, the Games will host approximately 2,000 indigenous athletes from nearly 30 countries. In parallel, there will be several activities in celebration of indigenous peoples' cultures, led by the indigenous peoples themselves.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the System-Wide Action Plan for the coherent implementation of UNDRIP, we concur with the Secretary-General that its development is a work in progress, which should involve consultations with Member-States, indigenous representatives and the various agencies, funds and programs of the UN System.

We commend the initiative of the Inter-Agency Support Group of establishing a working group with this very purpose and of working on the coherence of the UN System aimed at supporting Member-States to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

Brazil also welcomes the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 30/L.9 concerning the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

Mr. Chair,

As mandated by Resolution 69/2, Member-States should consider, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

This is a matter of utmost importance for Brazil. We acknowledge the very specific nature of their representative bodies and regret that only a few indigenous representatives are usually able to project their voices in international fora. Any consultation process regarding indigenous

representation should include representatives from all regions in the world. Special attention should be paid to regions that are often under-represented at the existing UN fora and mechanisms on indigenous issues.

One option to ensure a balanced geographical representation of indigenous peoples in this consultation process could be to appoint the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as advisors to the Secretary-General in drafting new rules for the participation of indigenous peoples' institutions in relevant UN Fora, consistent with Paragraph 40 of the Outcome Document of the World Conference.

Thank you."