



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva*

**Human Rights Council
37th Session
Public Security**

Mr. President,

I would like to refer to the statement made a Brazilian NGO earlier today.

The fight against crime and the promotion of public safety are key priorities for the Brazilian Government. Public safety is indispensable for development and for the protection of human rights.

The recent decision to authorize federal intervention in the area of public security in the State of Rio de Janeiro was taken with the consent of the state Government and approval by the Brazilian Congress. It also was taken in consultation with the Republic and National Defense Councils, composed by ministers, public authorities, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society. The decision was taken after strictly following all requirements established by the Constitution.

The federal intervention in Rio is an exceptional measure provided for by the Brazilian Constitution in view of the serious situations of public disturbance. The appointment of a military officer to the post of head of this federal effort to support the state of Rio de Janeiro is perfectly consistent with the Constitution. It does not entail any waiver of responsibility by the Brazilian authorities.

The Brazilian Government has also decided to establish the Public Safety Ministry that will co-ordinate and enhance integration of public safety services throughout the country.

I would also like to highlight that, on February 26th, the Ministry of Human Rights published the Ministerial Decree No. 121 establishing the Human Rights Observatory for the Federal Intervention in the state of Rio de Janeiro. This new body - ObservaRIO – will be in charge of monitoring the full respect for human rights by the security forces in Rio. Civil society will be our partner in this endeavor.

All allegations of human rights violations and abuses will be investigated and perpetrators held accountable by the competent authorities.

We understand that the underlying causes of violence and crime must be addressed in a comprehensive basis, taking into consideration the need to promote social justice and protect all human rights, in accordance with all international human rights obligations.

I thank you.