

***Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office***

***and other International Organizations in Geneva***

**Human Rights Council**

**Intersessional Meeting**

**Consultation on Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS**

Thank you, Kate.

Let me first thank Mr. Rico Gustav, from the Global Network of People Living with HIV, for sharing his experience with us.

I also welcome Mr. Tim Martineau, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, and Dr. Ren Mingui, WHO Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases.

It is very gratifying to see the OHCHR, WHO and UNAIDS working together, once again, in health and human rights issues.

Today, I have the honour to speak on behalf of Brazil, Colombia, Mozambique, Portugal and Thailand. Our countries integrate the core group which facilitates the trienal HRC resolution “Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS”.

The old Commission on Human Rights and, now, the Council, have consistently renewed the call for holistic policies to respond to HIV.

As some of you will recall, in 1990, human rights were for the first time acknowledged as a fundamental element to an effective HIV response by a pioneer resolution then put forward by Brazil and adopted by consensus.

This initiative was a game changer. At that time, the response to HIV was considered as an exclusively health issue.

The respect for and promotion of rights of persons affected by the HIV and of those belonging to key populations was neither central to the debate nor was appropriately covered by international instruments and national strategies.

In 1996, another resolution approved by the Commission of Human Rights asked the OHCHR, together with UNAIDS, to elaborate international guidelines on promoting and protecting respect for human rights in the context of HIV.

The document was finally adopted in 1998. After been reviewed in 2002 and 2006, it became a reference to the elaboration of effective HIV policies worldwide.

As global challenges demand global responses, the core group of this initiative was enlarged in 2015 and, today, it encompasses countries of all continents.

The 2015 resolution asked for a panel to discuss and offer a direct contribution of the Human Rights Council to the “2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS”, an instrument which is renewed by the General Assembly every 5 years.

In 2018, our countries put forward resolution 38/8, which highlights that an effective HIV response requires scaled up efforts to fulfill the right to health, including by creating an enabling legal, educational and health care environment.

The initiative recognizes the special needs of women and girls, the youth, persons deprived of their liberty, migrants and refugees, among others.

The importance of universal health coverage and access to medicines, diagnosis and treatment were also reaffirmed in the text.

Our 2018 resolutionalso asked the High Commissioner to organize this present consultation with a view to discussing all relevant issues and challenges pertaining to the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights in the context of HIV response, with a focus on regional and subregional strategies and best practices.

As you are aware of, different regions face different challenges related to the HIV epidemic and, by acknowledging these differences, we will be able to offer a better global response to local realities.

This is the spirit of our resolution and of this consultation.

We take the opportunity to thank all States and organizations that engaged with the core group, particularly the OHCHR, UNAIDS and WHO.

Our appreciation also reaches the civil society organizations that contributed to the initiative.

Civil society, communities and grassroots movements have always been crucial to guarantee appropriate HIV responses and deserve to be recognized as such.

Thank you very much and hope you have great discussions.