

## *CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*



### **Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

Human Rights Council  
Experts Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – EMRIP  
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Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I thank EMRIP for its report. I take this opportunity to make some remarks about the situation in my country.

During most of the XX century, official policy on indigenous peoples was based on the premise that they would be integrated naturally into the dominant national culture. Over time, the tutelage model evolved into the current human rights protection model. This trend can also be seen in international instruments regarding indigenous peoples, such as the ILO Convention 169, which succeeded and updated ILO Convention 107.

In Brazil, we followed a similar path arriving in 1988 to the current legal framework under the new Federal Constitution. It not only established important milestones regarding the rights of indigenous peoples, but also strengthened national institutions on indigenous affairs. In particular, the National Foundation for the Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) was reformed and tasked to guarantee indigenous rights.

The Brazilian state regards all its citizens as equals before the law in rights and obligations. In this context, indigenous people's rights and culture are fully respected. Indigenous lands are protected by the state, but indigenous peoples have the power to decide over their use and sustainability, according to their own customs and traditional knowledge.

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Last February, a new norm was issued granting indigenous peoples the autonomy to define their own procedures regarding the environmental licensing of economic projects within their lands when the entrepreneur is an indigenous organization, within the limits of the national law.

In 2020, the Waimiri Atoari people developed their own protocol to remain isolated during the COVID 19 pandemic: all travel between their villages and to urban areas and cultural meetings was cancelled and they decided to depend on their own resources and support provided by the government.

Indigenous peoples may choose to develop income generating activities in their lands. Such initiatives of economic empowerment count with the full support of the Federal Government. For instance, the Paresi, Nambikwara and Manoki peoples have profited from sustainable production of grains in the Mid-West of Brazil, benefiting over 2,000 families.

We are available to cooperate with EMRIP by providing further information on these matters. Thank you.