



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

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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch) and has the honor to present herewith attached comments of the Government of Brazil with regard to communications **OL/BRA/8/2018** and **OL/BRA/16/2019**.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights  
Special Procedures Branch



## **OL/BRA/8/2018 and OL/BRA/16/2019**

The Brazilian Government presents the following comments in reply to the communication OL BRA 8/2018 and OL BRA 16/2019, by Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, concerning two bills of law before the Brazilian Parliament, regarding the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. These Bills, 7523/2010 and 7762/2014, were submitted on 23 June 2010 and 2 July 2014 respectively.

2. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, all priority actions by the Federal Executive Government and Federal Congress are directed to the efforts to deal with this health, social and economic consequences of the pandemic.

3. According to the Federal Congress information system, this is the current status of the two bills referred to by the Independent Expert:

- Bill 7762/2014, that Institutes the National Policy for the Protection of the Rights of People with Albinism, is waiting for the rapporteur's opinion at the Constitution and Justice and Citizenship Commission (CCJC) of the Federal House of Representatives. The last action was on 22/05/2019;
- Bill 7523/2010, for the provision of sunscreen by primary health care units, has been attached to Bill 4234/2008, on the creation of the National Program for the Prevention and Combat of Skin Cancer, of the National Week for the Prevention and Combat of Skin Cancer, of the mandatory free distribution of sunscreen by the Unified Health System - SUS, and other measures. It is currently awaiting appointment of a rapporteur at the Finance and Taxation Committee (CFT) of the Federal House of Representatives. The last action was on 27/11/2019.

4. Congress committees are focusing as a matter of priority on COVID-19 related bills at present. It is uncertain when the bills above mentioned will be analyzed.

5. Unfortunately, the Federal Government working group to discuss public policies directed to people with albinism, scheduled to start to meet in March 2020, was also suspended due to the pandemic. As soon as the health emergency is under control, the group will be installed.

6. Given the current limitations and constraints in the context of the pandemic, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) promoted the webinar "Knowing the challenges of Albinism", on 19/08/2020, with the purpose of addressing the needs of Brazilians with albinism and the recommendations contained in the Brazil country visit report . The proceedings of the

seminar can be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=243334023406053&extid=V6vFKzj4VbmKZed9>

7. The event was organized in a partnership with the National Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SNDPD), the National Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality (SNPIR) and the National Secretariat for the Family (SNF).

8. The webinar was open by Minister of MMFDH, Damares Alves, who announced that the Ministry of Health will publish an ordinance to determine health measures directed to people with albinism shortly.

9. Secretaries Priscilla Gaspar (SNPD), Sandra Terena (SNPIR) and Angela Gandra (SNF) also made remarks on the importance to reaching out to the community of people with albinism.

10. At the event, Mr Wellington Carneiro, attorney and activist for the albinism cause, represented the social movement of people with albinism. Dr. Carolina Marcon, dermatologist coordinator of the Pro-Albino Program and Dr. Ronaldo Yuiti Sano, ophthalmologist responsible for the Pro-Albino Program, presented the health challenges, such as skin care and vision, faced by this community. Their presentations can be viewed online.

11. The SNDPD was appointed as the focal point for contact to coordinate actions with the community of people with albinism.

In conclusion, Brazil thanks the Independent Expert for her contribution and reassures the mandate holder of its commitment to take the necessary steps to guarantee that the rights and needs of Brazilians with albinism are fully met, as well as to ensure their thorough inclusion in society.