

## **Friends of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness**

**37<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC**

**Item 3 - ID with SR on Minority Issues - 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Mr. President,

Brazil has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Friends of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.<sup>1</sup>

We take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Varennes for his appointment as Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and to wish him success in discharging his duties.

We commend the Special Rapporteur for setting “statelessness and the human rights of minorities” as one of the thematic priorities of his mandate. As we move halfway through the Campaign, this decision is timely and will surely contribute to raise awareness of the importance of stepping up our efforts to end statelessness by 2024.

We welcome resolutions which address the issue, including Resolution 32/7 – “The right to a nationality: women’s equal nationality rights in law and practice”.

Many stateless persons belong to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities and may thus face marginalization in countries in which their families have settled for generations. Statelessness can result in the discrimination of persons belonging to minorities, hampering their access to the enjoyment of rights and to the provision of basic services. Facilitating access to nationality is a crucial and necessary step towards their full inclusion in the societies they live in and contribute to.

We welcome the initiative by the SR to prepare a thematic report in the issue. We believe it will allow for a better understanding of statelessness and play a catalytic role towards achieving the actions established by the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. We encourage the Special Rapporteur to approach the Global Action Plan in a holistic manner, bearing in mind that all actions contained therein may contribute to the fulfillment of the human rights of stateless persons belonging to minorities.

The Friends of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024 stand ready to support the SR in the implementation of his mandate.

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<sup>1</sup> Brazil, Australia, Finland, Mexico, Thailand, United States of America, Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia.

Thank you.