Delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations General Assembly are: I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. While all three topics are of great importance, topic III. focuses on a violation of human rights and topic I. needs to be further addressed to ensure international security. Therefore, the Federative Republic of Brazil would like to address the issues in the following order: topic III.; topic I., topic II.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The United Nations (UN) were founded to ensure international peace and security. In order to do that, emerging technologies impacting international security have to be considered. Categorising these technologies into nuclear, space, materials, information and biotechnologies, as introduced by Secretary-General's report 45/568 (1990), makes it clearer to tackle the different issues. While all five sectors play an important role in international security and disarmament, especially the category of information technology is crucial since nowadays almost all communication and storage of information occurs electronically, which is sustainable but can leave critical information unprotected without appropriate regulations. Although strategies on cybersecurity already exist, not even half of the UN Member States have implemented them or are in the process of doing so. As a response to the so far deficient national actions taken, the General Assembly passed its resolution 64/211 (2010) which contains a voluntary tool for national self-assessment on cybersecurity needs and strategies. The Federative Republic of Brazil takes international security very seriously, being among the top twenty contributors to UN peacekeeping operations. Not being involved in chemical, biological or nuclear weapons and having several treaties and conventions on these topics with other nations in place, we aim to help other Member States in disarmament and international security. In regard to information technology, we are honoured to host the regional field office for the Americas of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In addition, our president Jair Bolsonaro stated that cybersecurity will be at the centre of our nation's attention and we hope to inspire other Member States, especially in South America, to take similar measures. We believe that more needs to be done on a national or regional level by promoting already existing strategies such as the previously mentioned toolkit for self-evaluation provided by resolution 64/211 (2010), as well as projects on security and technology by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). In addition, we propose further working closely with ITU and stressing the importance of the Safer Internet Day to raise more awareness on the issue. In order to find the most effective frameworks on information technologies for both the UN and Member States, the Federative Republic of Brazil proposes that the ITU award the most effective solutions on security systems for Member States so they can no longer be attacked via Internet, creating a toolkit for other nations out of them. The award shall be called Safer Information Technology Award (SITA), funded by the ITU Development Fund for instance and awarded every two years. A committee of experts will assess security and adaptability to other nation's needs, employing the Honeypot Research Network (HORNET), the UNIDIR and the National Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) as advisory bodies. Concerning technologies such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), we propose that the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) keeps reporting on the development and threats of UAVs, helping Member States establish or improve their laws on them. For example, the Federative Republic of Brazil has regulations that UAVs of a certain size need to be registered, which helps our government to keep track of UAVs and facilitates prosecution if necessary. The Federative Republic of Brazil believes that addressing emerging technologies and ways how they can be misused is crucial in order to achieve international security and disarmament.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The UN is the largest intergovernmental organisation in the world, working on issues confronting humanity in the 21st century. In order to properly function in a responsible way, transparency and accountability are crucial. Although the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) acts as a fundamental basis for the organisation, periodic updates and reports on the UN's work are a necessity. The General Assembly reviews the annual reports published by the Secretary-General in order to provide

requests on how to further improve transparency and accountability, such as done in resolution 71/283 (2017) on the progress of the accountability system in the UN Secretariat. In addition to these reports and reviews, the UN Ethics Office – among others - was established under General Assembly resolution 60/248 (2006) to ensure the highest degree of integrity within the UN system. The Federal Republic of Brazil is currently working on ensuring more transparency on a national level, also creating means to protect whistle-blowers who unveil corruption or any other form of misconduct. For this, we have ratified an anti-corruption law in 2013, expanding on this in 2018 in our Federal Law No 13,608 among other, which further specifies the protection of whistle-blowers. To better protect whistle-blowers within the UN system, the Federative Republic of Brazil proposes the establishment of a UN Special Rapporteur on the Protection of whistle-blowers, elected by the UN Secretary-General on an initial trial period from 2020 until 2022. Working closely with all sectors of the UN, but especially with the Ethics Office and its resources on the code of ethics, the Special Rapporteur will assess previous and current cases of whistle-blowers in order to create guidelines on how to proceed with the protection of such persons. Additionally, the Special Rapporteur will work closely with whistle-blowers to find suitable solutions, adapted to each specific situation, on what protection measures to take. Further, in order to prevent retaliation on any specific persons, cases of misconduct shall be made public by the Special Rapporteur within the UN system while keeping the source of information anonymous. To make reporting more anonymous, a letterbox shall be installed in every UN office at a discreet location where whistle-blowers can throw in messages and only entrusted persons of the Special Rapporteur shall have access to them. The Federative Republic of Brazil believes that the reporting of misconduct and the following protection of whistle-blowers is an effective method for more accountability and transparency within the UN system.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

Article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states that all humans are “equal in dignity and rights” and the document continues to highlight equality in many of the following articles. Unfortunately, almost half of the world’s population – women and girls – have experienced and still experience many injustices and gender-based violence around the world. In order to eliminate this issue, both General Assembly resolution 55/2 (2000) on *the Millennium Declaration Goals* and General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on the 2030 *Sustainable Development Goals* included the eradication of gender equality as one of their goals and many other committees have addressed this issue. Being one of the current Executive Board Members of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) until the end of this year, as well as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the main global policymaking body for gender equality, until next year, the Federative Republic of Brazil is highly involved in securing gender equality around the globe. We are honoured that our former president Dilma Rousseff, the first woman to be a Brazilian president, was also the first woman to ever open a session of the UN with her opening speech for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 2011, setting a milestone for the empowerment of women. The Federative Republic of Brazil believes that giving more voice to gender-based inequality and violence is the first step that needs to be taken in order to tackle this issue. More awareness can be achieved through further promoting already existing awareness days such as the International Women’s Day on 8th March, “Orange Day” on the 25th of every month, as well as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (#HearMeToo) among other. Giving victims of gender-based violence a voice and the opportunity to share their experience will hopefully help prevent further cases of violence in the future. While awareness-raising is a major step towards the elimination of gender-based violence, we believe that victims also need a way to reach out for help when faced with violence. Therefore, we propose to create an international hotline for victims of gender-based violence through UN Women and in cooperation with local offices. This hotline shall be named Call Against Violence, relying on volunteering staff and operating around the clock. Call Against Violence will not only give victims the means to reach out to someone, after a first contact, but it will also aid callers to find effective measures for creating a safer environment, in cooperation with local governments and women’s shelters. One of those measures could be for communities and schools to offer free self-defence classes to women and girls, strengthening their confidence and giving them a means to protect themselves. In order to guarantee success, the awareness days as well as workshops in schools and local community centres, funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women for instance, should focus on what violence can look like and what to do if someone themselves or from their surroundings experience violence, also promoting Call Against Violence and letting victims of gender-based violence voluntarily share their stories. Since women comprise nearly half of the world’s population and are proven to generally live longer, the Federative Republic of Brazil believes that the advancement of equality is beneficiary to any nation.