

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED CORE LABOUR STANDARDS IN BRAZIL

REPORT FOR THE WTO GENERAL COUNCIL REVIEW OF THE TRADE POLICIES OF BRAZIL

(Geneva, 9 -11 March 2009)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brazil has ratified seven of the eight core ILO labour Conventions. In view of restrictions on trade union rights, discrimination, child labour and forced labour, determined measures are needed to comply with the commitments Brazil accepted at Singapore, Geneva and Doha in the WTO Ministerial Declarations over 1996-2001, and in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Brazil has ratified the ILO Convention on collective bargaining, but has not ratified the Convention on freedom of association. Although progress has recently been made toward the legal recognition of trade union centres, the “Unicidade” system remains an obstacle to the right of workers to form and join a trade union. The right to collective bargaining is heavily restricted both in law and in practice. A draft trade union reform, which according to the government is at an advanced stage, should help redress some of the current violations. In practice violence against trade unionists remains a serious problem and public authorities are often unable to enforce the legislation prohibiting discrimination against trade unionists. Most notably employers blatantly violate trade unions’ rights including through threats, blacklisting and reprisals against strikers.

Brazil has ratified the core ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration as well as the Convention on Discrimination. Although progress has been made, differences between men and women in the labour market remain significant. There is serious discrimination against the Afro-Brazilian population, which is disproportionately employed in low skilled low wage jobs.

Brazil has ratified the ILO core Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the Convention on Minimum Age. Despite a decrease in the number of minors at work, child labour, including in its worst forms, remains a serious problem in Brazil. An estimated 5.4 million children aged 5 to 17 are economically active. The number of child domestic workers and of boys and girls involved in commercial or sexual exploitation is particularly alarming.

Brazil has ratified both Conventions on Forced Labour. Forced labour is prohibited by law but is a serious problem in Brazil. Although some improvement has been made in freeing forced labourers, really dissuasive penalties for offenders are not effectively imposed nor enforced. The number of convictions by criminal courts remains low.

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Introduction

This report on the respect of internationally recognised core labour standards in Brazil is one of the series the ITUC is producing in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) (Singapore, 9-13 December 1996) in which Ministers stated: "*We renew our commitment to the observance of internationally recognised core labour standards.*" The fourth Ministerial Conference (Doha, 9-14 November 2001) reaffirmed this commitment. These standards were further upheld in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted by the 174 member countries of the ILO at the International Labour Conference in June 1998.

The ITUC affiliates in Brazil are the Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT), Força Sindical (FS), União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) and the Confederação Nacional das Profissões Liberais (CNPL).

I. Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining

Brazil has not ratified Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise. Brazil ratified Convention No. 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining in 1952.

The Lula government announced its intention to reform the Brazilian Labour Code to bring it into line with international labour standards, notably ILO Convention 87. Various tripartite consultations on this issue have been held and the participation of trade union organisations in governmental bodies dealing with economic and social affairs has increased.

The right to join and form a trade union:

The Constitution and Labour Code allow workers to form trade unions, except for the military, uniformed police, fire-fighters and various other state employees. The central component of Brazilian labour legislation is the Compendium of Labour Laws (CLT) of 1943.

Thanks to the adoption of new legislation, trade union centres meeting certain requirements can now obtain legal recognition and are entitled to legally represent workers in courts, public councils and other bodies. Union centres seeking recognition must meet the following requirements: the affiliation of at least 100 unions distributed across the five regions, the affiliation of unions in at least five sectors, and the affiliation of at least 5% of all union members nationally in the first year, rising to at least seven per cent in two years. Less than six of the 17 centres currently in operation meet these criteria.

The Brazilian "unicidade" system stipulates that there can only be one trade union per economic or occupational category in each territorial area. This means that some sectoral federations and national trade union centres are not legally recognised. Various federal laws however recognise the legitimacy of trade unions created since the early 1980s, while the Federal High Court has recognised only the sectoral unions set up under a framework system established in 1943. Several trade union proposals towards a formal recognition of the right to trade union representation at the plant level have not yet been taken up by the government.

By law, each worker must pay a compulsory annual fee equivalent to one day's wages. It is deducted from their pay in March and then distributed to the unions, federations and confederations. A portion (20%) of the fee goes to an employment and wage fund at the Ministry of Labour. The funds are distributed in proportion to the number of workers legally represented based on the obligatory single union system, not on the number of workers actually affiliated.

The right to bargain collectively:

According to the government a trade union reform currently under preparation would include a provision aimed at promoting collective bargaining at all level, strengthening autonomous social dialogue between employers and employees and promoting the voluntary settlement of dispute.

At the time of writing this report, however, there are heavy constraints on the right to bargain collectively.

Firstly collective bargaining is only open to those unions that are legally registered with the Ministry of Labour.

Secondly there are significant impediments to the development of voluntary collective bargaining. Trade unions denounce the interference of the courts in collective bargaining. While a Constitutional Amendment was adopted in 2004 which establishes that the judiciary may no longer be unilaterally called on to intervene in cases of disputes in collective bargaining processes, in practice such interference persists. While questioned about this issue by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) the government referred to the draft trade union reform currently under preparation and elaborated with a tripartite consensus within the National Labour Forum (FNT), in which a new dispute settlement system will be established. The basic principle of this system will be to encourage the adoption of voluntary dispute settlement mechanisms, such as conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

Furthermore, however, there exist impediments to voluntary collective wage bargaining. For example under section 623 of the labour laws (CLT), it is possible for the provisions of an agreement that conflict with the orientation of government policy to be declared null and void. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) has on several occasions insisted that this impedes the development of voluntary collective bargaining procedures and has asked the government, in vain, to repeal section 623 accordingly. There are also restrictions on collective wage bargaining in public and mixed enterprises, making real wage increases contingent upon certain criteria such as increased

productivity, the distribution of dividends or the alignment of the overall remuneration of employees with current levels in the labour market. The inclusion of automatic price index-related wage increases or adjustments in agreements are equally legally restricted, which limits the ability of the parties to freely determine the subject and content of collective negotiations.

Thirdly public employees do not have the right to bargain collectively. The ILO CEACR has for several years referred to the obligation of the government under the provisions of the Convention to ensure that public employees who are not engaged in the administration of the State have the right to bargain collectively. The Government had replied indicating the existence of constitutional limitations on the public administration's freedom of action. While the issue of collective bargaining in the public sector has been discussed by several bodies including tripartite ones, no constitutional amendment has been proposed yet.

Fourthly trade unions have denounced the many obstacles that often prevent collective bargaining from taking place in subcontracted firms.

The authorities have often proved incapable of applying the anti-union discrimination laws. Trade unionists are frequently dismissed in total violation of the rules protecting them against unfair dismissal, and the courts, which operate very slowly, are unable to deal with the two million or more complaints filed every year. Union officials estimate that settling 50% of such cases would take five to ten years.

Many trade union rights violations take place in rural areas where employers are very hostile towards trade unions. Blacklisting is common, and many workers have to join a trade union in secret.

Violence against trade unionists remains a serious issue. Over recent years, trade unionists have been the victims of death threats, assaults, unfair dismissals and bomb attacks on their offices. This has led the ILO CEARC to recall that freedom of association may only be exercised in a situation where fundamental human rights are fully respected and guaranteed, in particular those relating to human life and safety.

In April 2007 five trade union leaders from the National Federation of Sao Paulo Metro Workers were dismissed following a 90-minute work stoppage held in protest against new rules imposed by the Company. Their dismissal constituted a flagrant violation of the law on discrimination against unions, which is meant to protect trade union leaders and elected union representatives against such reprisals.

In 2007, following stoppages by air traffic controllers in protest against poor safety conditions at airports, two air traffic controllers who had issued warnings about safety issues were arrested. A strike that had forced the closure of 49 airports across Brazil was called off at the end of March 2007 when the government agreed to suspend plans to transfer strikers from Brasilia to other parts of the country, to raise wages and to negotiate the "demilitarisation" of the industry.

In June 2007 a hand-made bomb was thrown into the offices of the metal workers' union of Taubaté, near Sao Paolo. This was followed by death threats against the president of the union.

In October 2007, the President of the Union of Civil Construction Workers of Salto was shot dead by a bullet in the head. Galvão was chased by two cars travelling at high speed, which then stopped and opened fire. That same day, Galvão had taken photos of workers hanging from a building site without safety straps. Galvão, who had criticised construction companies for the dangerous conditions imposed on their workers, had already received death threats. In the days prior to his murder, a bomb attack was carried out on the home of the union's treasurer, and the head of the union had received threatening phone calls.

In August 2008, a petrol bomb was thrown at the house of the president of the Amapá Transport Workers' Union. This attack took place during a dispute between the union and two local bus companies over pay and health benefits. This took place after he received several death threats while leading strikes and after the union's headquarters were ransacked in 2003. No one has been arrested in connection with any of the threats or attacks.

The right to strike:

The 1988 Constitution established the right to strike without restrictions for all workers and state officials, apart from the police and the military. The Constitution does allow the right to strike in the public services, however the text makes the exercise of that right subject to a particular set of rules that have so far not been defined, thus creating difficulties in practice for public servants wishing to exercise the right to strike.

According to the legislation workers cannot be replaced during a strike nor can they be fired for taking part in a legal strike. However, in practice striking workers have been fired in some cases. Employers commonly put an end to strike action through recourse to the labour courts or a legal instrument known as the "prohibitory ban", which forbids the presence of trade unionists at the entrance or in the vicinity of the workplace.

Conclusions

Although progress has recently been made toward the legal recognition of trade union centres, the Unicidade system remains a major obstacle to the right of workers to form and join a trade union. The right to collective bargaining is heavily restricted both in law and in practice. A draft trade union reform, which according to the government is at an advanced stage, should help redress some of the current violations. In practice violence against trade unionists remains a serious problem and public authorities are often unable to enforce the legislation prohibiting discrimination against trade unionists. Most notably employers blatantly violate trade union's rights including through threats, blacklisting and reprisals against strikers.

II Discrimination and Equal Remuneration

Brazil ratified Convention No. 100 on Equal Remuneration in 1957 and Convention No. 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) in 1965.

The preamble to the 1988 Brazilian Constitution refers to equality as a supreme value. Article 5(I) states that men and women have equal rights and duties under the terms of the Constitution. Article 7.XXX prohibits any difference in wages, in the performance of duties and in hiring criteria.

In practice there are significant wage disparities between men and women. According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MTE), women are often paid less than men in the same functions. They also tend to be kept in lower positions.

In a 2005 study by the World Economic Forum looking at the size of the gender gap, Brazil ranks 51 out of the 58 countries examined. The study analysed the extent to which women have achieved equality with men in five critical areas, namely economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment, and health and well-being.

Brazil's Decent Work Country Programme, launched by the Ministry of Labour, includes effective application of the Convention on discrimination among its objectives. In December 2004, the National Congress approved amendment No. 45 to the Constitution under which international human rights treaties, including the ones dealing with discrimination, approved by three-fifths of the votes cast in both chambers shall rank on a par with the Constitution.

Several bodies have been created to address discrimination in employment and occupation:

- The National Council for the Rights of Women (CNDM) is responsible for policies relevant to women and employment, related to female-headed households, income generation, access to credit, child care facilities and technical/management training.
- There is a tripartite working group for the elimination of discrimination in employment (GTDEO).
- In 2003 a Special Secretariat for Policies for Women and a Special Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality were created within the Office of the President of the Republic. In addition a decree of 2004 established a tripartite committee under the Ministry of Labour and Employment to serve as an advisory body, with a view to promoting public policy on equal opportunities and treatment and combating all forms of discrimination based on sex and race in employment and occupation.

In practice however discrimination against women, Afro-Brazilians and indigenous population in employment remains widespread. A 2004 study entitled "Social, racial and gender profile of management in large Brazilian companies" described discrimination on grounds of race, sex and colour in executive posts and jobs that involve dealing with the public in sectors such as banking, hotels, airlines and shopping malls, where members of the black and mulatto population are employed only in cleaning and maintenance jobs.

According to official sources, Afro-descendants account for 70% of the poorest segment of the population.

Conclusions

Discrimination on the grounds of race and gender is prohibited by law, but very common in practice. Despite a number of initiatives from the government, the afro-mulatto population is subject to discrimination in employment and wages, and members of this group are disproportionately represented in lower skilled and low wage jobs, while women within this group are among the most disadvantaged. Few women have key positions compared to men. Generally they earn less than their male counterparts for work of equal value.

III. Child Labour

Brazil ratified Convention No. 138, the Minimum Age Convention, in 2001 and Convention No. 182, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention in 2000.

Article 7 of the Federal Constitution prohibits work for children under the age of 16 and night work, or work that is morally harmful, dangerous or unhealthy for children under the age of 18. Apprenticeships can be started at the age of 14. The Statute of Children and Adolescents of 1990 reaffirms the prohibition of manual work as detrimental to the physical, psychological, moral and social development of children and adolescents.

2004 statistics provided by the Government, which are based on the household survey carried out by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) indicate that 5.4 million children between 5 and 17 years of age work during the week. Of this number, about 250,000 (4.5%) are aged between 5 and 9 years and over 1.8 million (34.4%) are aged 10 to 14.

According to information provided by ILO-IPEC, the percentage of children working without attending school is four times as high in rural areas as in urban areas. Among all working children approximately three out of every five are employed in the agricultural sector. Working children aged 5-14 tend to work an average of 18 hours a week. Girls in that age group work approximately as many hours as boys.

The primary school net attendance ratio in 2006 was estimated at 95% for both girls and boys. The secondary school net attendance ratio in the same years was estimated at 42% for boys and 50% for girls. Thanks to the effort made by the government, Brazil is on its way to achieving universal primary education. However the quality of teaching is uneven and according to UNICEF many schools do not successfully teach basic skills.

Several structures and bodies have been created to eliminate child labour in the country. The National Forum for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour (FNPETI) was set up in 1994 with the support of the ILO and UNICEF. The FNPETI is composed of 40 governmental organisations, as well as representatives of employers, workers and NGOs. More recently, the Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (PETI) was established under the Ministry of Social Assistance. PETI remains the main instrument of public policy for the prevention and eradication of child labour. PETI is a conditional income transfer programme which consists of a

monthly grant (Bolsa Criança-Cidadã) to families with per capita income up to half the minimum wage and who have children aged 7-15 years who work and who undertake to remove them from work and ensure that they attend school and extra-curricular activities where children and young persons receive extra tuition and engage in sporting, cultural, artistic and leisure activities.

The National Council for the Elimination of Child Labour (CONAETI) set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2002 has drawn up a National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour.

In 2003 the Government and the ILO/IPEC launched a Time-Bound Programme in order to develop programmes and activities essential for the establishment of the conditions required for the elimination of child labour, including its worst forms. This programme includes several actions targeting hazardous agricultural activities (particularly household agricultural activities), work in the informal economy and child domestic labour.

The worst forms of child labour

According to the 2003 report entitled “Good practices in action against child labour: Ten years of IPEC in Brazil”, published by ILO/IPEC-Brazil, the sexual exploitation of children and young persons is an increasing phenomenon. Despite the existence of programmes in this area, it is estimated that around 500,000 children between 9 and 17 years of age are sexually exploited in the country. In its 2007 Observation the ILO CEACR expressed concern at the number of children in Brazil who are sexually exploited for commercial purposes.

The 2006 activity report of ILO/IPEC highlights that Brazil is a country of transit, origin and destination of child victims of international sale and trafficking. Girls and boys are also victims of internal trafficking, particularly for exploitation in agricultural work, mines and charcoal production.

The case of child domestic workers is particularly alarming. According to an ILO/IPEC study of 2004, there are over 500,000 child domestic workers in Brazil. Although the minimum age for admission to employment or work is 16 years, over 88% of child domestic workers begin working before that age, sometimes at around 5 or 6 years of age. A significant number of child domestic workers are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and forced labour and work under conditions prohibited by Convention No. 182. According to the study, very few of these children attend school. Certain children say that they do not receive payment and others that they do not have a day off during the week. As this category of workers do not fall under the provision of the labour code, labour inspectors do not have any legal powers to report violations of the laws. A clear and comprehensive legal framework would be necessary to end this form of exploitation of children.

There is a significant number of street children in the country. The use of police violence against them, which sometimes includes killings, is a very serious problem.

Conclusions

Despite a decrease in the number of minors at work, child labour, including in its worst forms, remains a serious problem in Brazil. An estimated 5.4 million children aged 5 to 17 are economically active. The number of child domestic workers or boys and girls involved in commercial or sexual exploitation is particularly alarming.

IV. Forced Labour

Brazil ratified Convention No. 29, the Forced Labour Convention, in 1957 and Convention No. 105, the Abolition of Forced Labour in 1965.

The Constitution prohibits forced labour, however, in practice forced labour is a serious problem in Brazil. Forced labour particularly occurs in the north-east and central west of Brazil, in activities such as forest clearing, logging, charcoal production, raising of livestock and agriculture. A report by the International Labour Office, published in October 2003, estimates that at least 40,000 people in the country work in conditions of slavery. In many regions, a large number of workers is still subjected with their families to degrading conditions of work and debt servitude. Forced labour mainly involves men, but also women and children.

For many years, the ILO CEARC has referred to the situation of workers who are subject to inhuman and degrading conditions of work, debt bondage or internal trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation. Over recent years, the Government has taken a number of measures.

Recently adopted measures have provided the country with improved legal measures through the adoption of provisions clearly describing the elements which constitute the crime of “reducing a person to a condition akin to that of slavery” (section 149 of the Penal Code), accompanied by a national action plan for the eradication of slave labour and institutions which specialise in combating this phenomenon, in particular the National Commission for the Eradication of Slave Labour (CONATRAE). CONATRAE, which includes non-governmental actors, has developed various campaigns aimed at raising awareness and mobilising the population with a view to combating slave labour. The ILO established the "Combating forced labour in Brazil" programme initiated in 2002 and which includes awareness raising, the strengthening of enforcement, training for government officials and additional resources.

As part of the governmental measures, an Executive Group on the Elimination of Forced Labour was set up in 1995, including a Special Mobile Inspection Group (GEFM). The GEFM plays a central role in combating slave labour. According to the statistics provided by the Government, since its creation in 1995, the GEFM has carried out more than 560 operations which have involved the inspection of more than 1,800 estates and led to the liberation of more than 25,000 workers.

Nevertheless, despite these measures, the phenomenon of forced labour persists, indicating a need for tougher actions from the government. In particular, there are serious delays

in the adoption of the Bill (PEC no 438/2001) amending article 243 of the Constitution. This Bill has already been approved by the Senate but its approval by the Chamber of Deputies is pending since 2004. The Bill provides for the expropriation without compensation of establishments in which the use of slave labour has been identified. It also stipulates that the expropriated lands will be consigned to the agrarian reform and reserved as a priority for the persons who worked on them. This is not the first time that such amendments to article 243 of the Constitution have been discussed by Congress since 1995, but none have ever been adopted. Yet in the view of the ILO CEARC the adoption of such bill would “*make it possible to impose really dissuasive penalties on landowners having recourse to slave labour.*”

There exists a register of persons or entities which use or have used slave labour. This register, which is regularly updated, is used by different administrative bodies and banks administering constitutional and regional financing funds so that no financial assistance, grants or public credits are granted to the names included on the list. During the two years following inclusion of his/its name in the register, the person or entity is regularly visited by the labour inspectorate to verify the conditions of work. Recently however the existence of the register has been legally challenged by groups and individuals whose names appears in the register.

Another problem relates to the imposition of insufficiently dissuasive fines and compensations against those who have been engaged in requiring forced labour. Yet as noted by the ILO CEACR, this is a crucial point to ensure the eradication of forced labour since “*slave labour will continue for as long as it remains lucrative*”.

Further, the number of cases tried and sentences imposed by the criminal courts for reducing a person to a condition akin to slavery remains low. According to the Federal Attorney-General’s Office, between 1996 and 2006, there were only 110 criminal prosecutions against entities accused of using slave labour. Only three prosecutions led to convictions by the criminal courts for exploitation of slave labour and in one case, the prison sentence was commuted to community service.

Although the work of the Special Mobile Inspection Group (GEFM) is widely recognised, the climate of intimidation and violence in which labour inspectors, attorneys and judges work, remains a serious obstacle. The murder of three labour inspectors and their driver on 28 January 2004 is an illustration of this climate. Before these murders, in view of the many threats menacing their members, several institutions, including the Federal Human Rights Ombudsperson, the National Association of Labour Judges, the Office of the Labour Attorney, the Association of Attorneys of Brazil and the Pastoral Land Commission, issued a press release describing the situation and calling for appropriate measures to be taken. The press release was further pursued in the form of an appeal to the President of the Republic and the Minister of Justice for the Government take urgent measures to secure the life and safety of the persons engaged in the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Slave Labour. This has lead the ILO CEACR to express concerns about the pressure GEFM has to face and to ask the Government to take all measures to allow it to carry out its activities in a serene climate free from threats or political pressure.

In addition there is a lack of inspectors, and inspections are not carried out in some areas that are known for slave labour. More resources are needed to ensure GEFM can carry out its work adequately.

Trafficking of people is prohibited. However, trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation is common in Brazil, both domestically and internationally. A large number of sex trafficking routes have been identified in the country, including international ones to Spain, Netherlands, Venezuela, Italy, Portugal, Argentina and Paraguay.

Conclusions

Forced labour is prohibited by law but is a serious problem in Brazil. Although some improvement has been made in freeing forced labourers, genuinely dissuasive penalties for offenders are not effectively imposed and enforced. The number of convictions by criminal courts remains low. Trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation both inside and outside the country is also a problem.

Final Conclusions and Recommendations

1. It is essential that discussions in the National Labour Forum (FNT) lead to the full respect of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining in Brazil, including ratification of Convention No. 87.
2. Amendments to the Constitution should be made so as to ensure that public employees who are not engaged in the administration of the State have the right to collective bargaining.
3. Court interference in strikes should be brought to an end. Recourse to compulsory arbitration should be restricted to cases in which both parties request compulsory arbitration and to essential services in the strict sense of the term or in acute national crises. Further limitations on the scope of collective bargaining should be eliminated.
4. The government must take measures to ensure that workers are able to form trade unions in practice, especially in rural areas. Blacklisting and threats have to be ended, requiring more effective investigation of anti-union discrimination and heavy penalties against employers guilty of such practices. The courts must accelerate their procedures for dealing with such cases. More serious efforts have to be made to investigate and convict employers who are involved in threatening of or violence against trade unionists.
5. More effective measures must be taken by the government to increase the participation of women and Afro-Brazilians in higher skilled and higher wage jobs, through training and education, anti-discrimination provisions in collective agreements, facilitation of complaints, integration of excluded persons and awareness-raising.
6. Continued efforts have to be made to eliminate child labour, particularly its worst forms including domestic work, prostitution, hazardous labour and begging. Assistance programmes which combine family income support with education have to be continued. More resources need to be directed to programmes aimed at eliminating child labour.
7. The scope of the labour law should be extended so as to cover domestic workers.
8. A new tripartite effort is required to bring an end to forced labour in Brazil. Furthermore, eradication of forced labour can only be reached if it is supported by a credible judicial system. Therefore more serious efforts have to be made to prosecute employers who use forced labour, and to effectively apply dissuasive penalties.
9. The existence of a register of persons and entities using or having used forced labour should be legally stipulated.
10. Urgent measures need to be taken to secure the life and safety of the persons engaged in the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Slave Labour.
11. More resources need to be dedicated to the eliminated of forced labour in the country.

12. Serious efforts have to be made to end the trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual or other commercial exploitation.

13. In line with the commitments accepted by Brazil at the Singapore, Geneva, and Doha WTO Ministerial Conference and its obligations as a member of the ILO, the Government of Brazil should provide regular reports to the WTO and the ILO on its legislative changes and implementation of all the core labour standards.

14. The WTO should draw to the attention of the authorities of Brazil the commitments they undertook to observe core labour standards at the Singapore and Doha Ministerial Conferences. The WTO should request the ILO to intensify its work with the Government of Brazil in these areas and provide a report to the WTO General Council on the occasion of the next trade policy review.

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