**Open letter to the Ministry of Human Rights regarding recommendations made on year III of the Universal Periodic Review.**

The Early Childhood National Network (RNPI), a national forum of governmental and non-governmental Organizations, committed to promote the rights of children from 0 to 6 years of age, assessing the United Nations Human Rights Body hereby requires the following:

1. The Universal Periodic Review, established by the UN General Assembly in March 15th, 2006, in accordance with the resolution 60/251, is an important instrument for the 193 members of the United Nations, in collaboration, to fulfil its human rights duties and responsibilities;

2. In accordance with Article 227 of the Federal Constitution, in force since 1988, states that the Family, the society and the duty bearers are accountable to ensuring the protection of all children and adolescents in Brazil, as well as ensuring, within this Political Letter content, the fulfilment of other rights such as freedom, free manifestation, among others;

3. Children and adolescents bylaws, national regulation number 8069, in force since, July 13th, 1990, establishes a mechanism of full protection for children and adolescents (0 to 18 years of age) as subjects entitled to citizenship and rights;

4. Since de HAIA Convention, in 1907 (ratified in 1914) and, especially, with the subscription of the San Francisco letter (1945) of the United Nations Constitution, Brazil formally assumes, before the international community, the co-responsibility to promote Human Rights;

5. Brazil was actively involved in the development and promulgation of the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of Man and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both enforced in 1948. More recently, Brazil ratified the American Convention of Human Rights, acknowledging the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;

6. Brazil is part of this international order of Human Rights Defense resonating its own Constitution, which therein establishes that the Estate will conduct its international relations based on the principles and prevalence of these rights (Art. 4th, II). This precept is reinforced by the norms of the fundamental rights stated on §§ 2nd to 4th, article 5th.

7. The economic and political crisis in the country, which started in 2015, aggravated in the following years, has put at risk rights that have been historically conquered, causing harm in the conditions of the life of millions of families affecting the development of the children. The children are the most affected when such measures are applied. The Constitutional amendment N° 95, which established the “New Tax Regime related to Tax Budget and Social Security”, freezing the resources designated to the social area for 20 years announces a serious scenario of budgetary restriction to meet new demands of the population, which are continuously growing.

8. When approaching the Human Rights, we are prioritizing specifics related to fundamental rights for the human being, in favour of the social justice, tackling oppression, violence and any type of discrimination, which affect directly the lives of families and, consequently, the lives of children and adolescents.

9. More than ever, the absolute priority to fulfill the rights of children and adolescents, stated as a constitutional principle (Art. 227), must be reaffirmed and demanded. Children should not be affected and take the fault for the present issues, and they should not be penalized for measures related to economic changes. Their right for life, health, nutrition, culture, education and right to play must be preserved. In moments of crisis, these rights deserve better care and protection. Beyond that, all children must be offered with the opportunity for inclusion and access to such rights.

10. Violence against children is a complex phenomenon and, in order to fully understand, we have to start combatting issues affecting lives of children. We are aware about the importance to invest in information mechanisms about violence against children and adolescents in the country, once quality information is key to guide the government. It is important to consider the importance of report channels for violence against children and adolescents. The DISK 100 hotline is essential to ensure justice and combat impunity.

Therefore, the Early Childhood National Network hereby requests that the Ministry of Human Rights fully meet the following recommendations raised by our country during the 27th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council:

- Recommendation 136.5: Ratify the Facultative Protocol of the Convention for the Rights of the Children related to a communication procedure (Albania); (El Salvador); (Georgia); (Montenegro); (Liechtenstein);

- Recommendation 136.6: Ratify the Facultative Protocol of the Convention for the Rights of Children related to the communication procedures (Ukraine)

- Recommendation 136.7: Ratify, before the Universal Periodic Review, the Facultative Protocol of the Convention for The Rights of Children related to a communication procedure (Czech Republic)

- Recommendation 136.8: Consider the ratification of the Facultative Protocol for the Convention for the Rights of Children related to a Communication Procedure (Croatia); (Mongolia);

- 136.164: Develop further the National Policy of Primary Attention and the National Education Plan 2014-2024 (Israel);

- 136.165. Continue to take measures for improving quality of education, and reducing inequality of education caused by income level and social status (Japan);

- 136.166. Ensure adequate funding in implementing the National Education Plan, and undertake progress report on its implementation to improve transparency and accountability (Malaysia);

- 136.167. Pursue effort aiming at ensuring an inclusive education within the framework of the National Plan on Education 2014-2014 in particular in rural areas (Morocco);

- 136.171. Continue the implementation of education plan of 2014-2016 (Sudan);

- Recommendation 136.199: Ensure the rights of children and create a better alternative to improve the current youth criminalization system, in accordance with the International Convention for the Rights of Children (Estonia);

- Recommendation 136.200: Enforce policies and programmes to strengthen the rights of children and adolescents regarding education, health and training (Arabic Emirates);

 - Recommendation 136.201: Continue the efforts directed to promote the rights of children (Armenia);

- Recommendation 136.202: Prioritize environments of Family Care and Adopted Families rather than Institutional shelter homes to include adoption as a key instrument to protect children (Serbia)

- Recommendation 136.203: Strengthen the efforts to implement the Law Menino Bernardo and thus promote positive, participative and nonviolent approaches of discipline and children education (Liechtenstein);

- Recommendation 136.204: Enforce policies to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse, especially with children and adolescents, including the one living in the streets or in rehabilitation Institutions (Maldives);

- Recommendation 136.205: Strengthen programmes to combat child labor, especially involving investigating, inspection and preventive measures such as improvements on the social-economic conditions of children, ensuring proper access to Education (Liechtenstein);

- Recommendation 136.206: Reject Constitutional amendments proposals or legislation projects that aim to reduce the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Uruguay);

- Recommendation 136.207: Continue to eliminate discrimination against street children, children that reside in rural areas as well as disable children and other minority groups, and take all necessary measures to prevent any abuse of their vulnerabilities (Turkey);

- Recommendation 136.208: Take all necessary measures to eliminate effectively the incidence against early, child or forced marriage (Sweden).

We also hereby request that Brazil does not abide to recommendation 136.99 which harms the constitutional principle of equal rights and the human rights conquered in the world. Contrary to what is proposed in the recommendation, we want to strengthen an inclusive, respectful legislation in favour of diversity following the high standards set within the Human Rights.

And, as a high priority, The Early Childhood National Network highly recommends the establishment of a permanent forum for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation to the recommendations made by the UN, with the participation of this Group, the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and other movements, forums and fronts that fight for the rights of children and adolescents.

The Early Childhood National Network is committed to submit updates and analysis to the overall society, making the progress of these recommendations visible.

Rio de Janeiro 10 de agosto de 2017