

# Brazil

Brazil is a Member State of the United Nations (UN) and of the Organization of American States (OAS), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Brazil is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Brazil has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Brazil to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Maria da Penha v. Brazil*, the Commission confirmed that Brazil's delayed and negligent prosecution of domestic violence violated the State's duty to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women. See IACHR, Report No. 54/01, Case 12.051, [Maria da Penha](#) (Brazil), April 16, 2001. In *Gomes Lund et al. v. Brazil*, the Court held that Brazil's law granting amnesty to government agents' torture and disappearance of guerrilla members was incompatible with the American Convention and ordered the State to investigate the disappearances. See I/A Court H.R., [Case of Gomes Lund et al. v. Brazil](#). Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 24, 2010. Series C No. 219.

Additionally, the Inter-American Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Brazil.

Brazil has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador")
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Brazil is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Brazil's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of six treaty bodies.

Brazil has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Brazil has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the [CEDAW](#).

Brazil has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and Optional Protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Brazil has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Brazil has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Brazil has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Brazil has ratified **optional protocols** and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, CRPD, and CERD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Brazil has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On December 10, 2001, Brazil extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Brazil. For example, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent went on a mission in December 2013 and published a [report](#) in September 2014.

For more information on Brazil's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/BRIndex.aspx>.

*Last updated: February 15, 2018*