

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil

and

The Government of the United States of America
(hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"),

Reaffirming faith in the dignity and worth of the human being and in the equal rights of men and women;

Convinced that the maximum participation of women in society, under conditions equal to those of men, is necessary for the full and complete development of countries, the well-being of the world and the cause of peace;

Considering their commitment to achieving gender equality, the values shared by their peoples and the historical ties of friendship between their two nations;

Considering the comprehensive and effective public policies on gender issues that have been implemented in Brazil and in the United States;

Resolved to work jointly to further implement the measures necessary to eliminate discrimination against women in both countries;

Reiterating their commitment to the full implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995;

Recalling the political commitments made by these two governments in the Memorandum of Understanding on Education, signed in Washington, D.C., on March 30, 2007, and the Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality, signed in Brasília, on March 13, 2008; and

Aware of the importance of cooperating in promoting and protecting human rights within their countries, in the Americas and throughout the world,

Hereby decide:

1. To promote cooperation and sharing of information to eliminate discrimination against women and achieve gender equality.
2. To prioritize, within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, the attainment of the following long-term goals:
 - 2.1. Eliminating violence against women;

2.2. Eliminating trafficking in women and children; and

2.3. Empowering women.

3. That in order to advance towards achieving the long-term goals set forth in Section 2, the Participants intend to work jointly in carrying out the following tasks:

3.1. Promoting capacity-building among law enforcement officers, including police, public prosecutors and judges, with respect to enforcing their respective domestic laws prohibiting violence and discrimination against women;

3.2. Combating trafficking in women and children, whether for labor or sexual exploitation;

3.3. Combating child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and child pornography;

3.4. Promoting the participation of women in decision-making processes, including within political parties, national legislatures and in policymaking positions in the other branches of government;

3.5. Promoting equality in the workplace, economic opportunity, and improved livelihoods for women.

4. That in carrying out the tasks established in Section 3, the Participants may make use of the following means of performing work, among others:

4.1. Organizing training programs and seminars;

4.2. Supporting campaigns to raise awareness;

4.3. Forming partnerships with private sector entities and civil society organizations;

4.4. Establishing direct channels of communication between the government agencies of the two countries that are responsible for enforcement actions against trafficking in women and children, and child pornography, so as to facilitate expeditious information sharing and joint enforcement activities, including investigating and prosecuting cases concerning offenses committed over the Internet;

4.5. Sharing information about public policies and best practices, by fostering dialogue among government agencies of both countries with respect to specific issue areas;

4.6. Encouraging visits and meetings involving women leaders from both countries;

4.7. Supporting exchange programs between research institutions and/or institutions of higher education in both countries;

4.8. Fostering cooperation programs with third countries.

5. That the Participants are to decide on the activities to be undertaken and the working methods to be employed for carrying out the tasks listed in Section 3 through direct contact between the government entities that will coordinate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, i.e., the Ministry of External Relations and the Special Secretariat for Women`s Policies, on behalf of Brazil, and the Department of State, on behalf of the United States (hereinafter referred to as "Coordinating Agencies").

6. That the Coordinating Agencies expect to work jointly with other government entities, including those in other branches of government, and also with interested representatives of the private sector and civil society organizations, and to encourage their active engagement, with the aim of fully achieving the long-term goals of this Memorandum of Understanding and carrying out the tasks provided for herein.

7. That the Coordinating Agencies are to decide matters jointly and by consensus. In the future, the coordinating agencies may, based on mutual agreement, add to this Memorandum of Understanding new long-term goals, tasks, or means of performing work.

8. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create rights or obligations under either international or domestic law. Every activity carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding is to be consistent with the international commitments of the Participants, and also with their respective national laws.

9. This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect upon signature and is to remain in effect indefinitely.

10. Any of the Participants may, at any moment, through diplomatic channels notify the other of its decision to discontinue the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in Brasília, in duplicate, this 3rd day of March, 2010, in the Portuguese and English languages, both texts being equally valid.