**ANNEX**

**COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL**

**REGARDING LETTER ARDS/EMLER/AM (03/19/2024)**

Regarding the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for Afro-descendants against the excessive use of force and other violations by law enforcement agents, through transformative changes for racial justice and equity, the Ministry of Racial Equality, through the Direction of Policies to Combat and Overcome Racism, in the Secretariat of Policies to Combat and Overcome Racism, has been working on programs and initiatives such as the “Plano Juventude Negra Viva” (Black Youth Alive Plan).

The Black Youth Alive Plan (PJNV, in Portuguese) aims to reduce lethal violence and social vulnerabilities against black youth and to combat structural racism. This Plan, established on March 21, 2024, is a result of demands from the black movement, which addresses the fight against the extermination of black youth, and the youth movement regarding combating lethal violence affecting these young people.

The PJNV emerges in the context of the resumption of Brazilian democratic construction and has a transversal nature of public policies for racial equality for black youth, presenting strategic guidelines and themes to ensure its better execution.

In a broader political perspective, the PJNV presents itself as the Brazilian government's commitment to combating structural racism, maintaining the lives of black youth, and reducing the vulnerabilities they face.

The vulnerabilities accumulated by Brazilian black youth throughout Brazil's history are based on the long process of enslavement and require structural changes in the state's policies. The diagnosis presented in the Plan reinforces the need for transversal measures to guarantee black youth the right to life and to ensure their dignity and well-being.

Overcoming the scenario of vulnerabilities in which Brazilian black youth are inserted requires short, medium, and long-term measures, so the PJNV has a duration of 12 (twelve) years, divided into 4 (four) year implementation cycles. Similarly, it requires a construction that reaffirms pacts of union and solidarity for black youth. For this reason, the Plan's preparation involved not only the work of the Ministries part of the Interministerial Working Group but also partnerships with the Brazilian Public Security Forum (FBSP), the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and other specialists who contributed to the diagnosis included in this document.

In addition to these contributions and efforts, the role of Brazilian black youth deserves to be highlighted, as they, through the democratic listening process of the Participatory Caravans for the PJNV's elaboration, built the elements that underpin the diagnostic data, pointing out solutions for the demands and vulnerabilities that affect them.

Moreover, strengthening the federative pact to achieve the goals listed in the PJNV is a condition for its success. The adherence of subnational federative entities to the established political commitment is necessary for the Plan's success.

Given this context and considering the normative determinations, the PJNV's proposal was elaborated through the Interministerial Working Group established by Decree No. 11.444, signed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on March 21, 2023, which, under Article 2, determined the competencies of the said collegiate body to:

I - prepare a diagnosis of the current situation of lethal violence and social vulnerabilities affecting the black population aged fifteen to twenty-nine years;

II - propose guidelines and strategic directions for the Black Youth Alive Plan; and

III - propose actions and measures that will comprise the Black Youth Alive Plan, primarily in the following themes: a) public security and access to justice; b) job creation, employment, and income; c) education; d) democratization of access to culture and science and technology; e) health promotion; and f) ensuring the right to the city and the valorization of territories.

The Goals and Action Plan included agreements with 18 Ministries, resulting in 217 actions, distributed across 11 themes and 43 goals.

Specifically on the topic of state violence, Theme 1 (Access to Justice and Public Security), has the Goal 1: Training for public security professionals. The actions are organized as follows:

* Develop and institutionalize courses for public security professionals to address vulnerable groups, with the following themes: Single Public Security System (SUSP) and Combating Racial Inequality in Brazil, Sexual Exploitation and Child Prostitution: Prevention, Identification, and Repression, and Security for Vulnerable Groups: Networks of support for children and adolescents victims of child prostitution. Responsible: Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship;
* Offer online and in-person courses for public security professionals on themes related to the program and already institutionalized: Police Action Against Vulnerable Groups, Human Rights Philosophy Applied to Police Action, Violence, Crime, and Prevention, Security for Vulnerable Groups: Promoting Racial Equality, National Course on Assistance to Children and Adolescents in situations of violence, among others. Responsible: Ministry of Justice and Public Security and Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship;
* Develop technical guidelines and training for police approaches involving children and adolescents, to be disseminated through specific training for public security agents and child protection counselors. Responsible: Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship and Ministry of Justice and Public Security;
* Expand racial literacy mechanisms for public security with citizenship, focusing on protecting the lives of young black people who are victims of rights violations. Responsible: Ministry of Racial Equality with technical support from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and
* Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Racial Equality and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to define guidelines for the training of penal execution officers in Brazil regarding themes related to racism and penal selectivity. Responsible: Ministry of Justice and Public Security with technical support from the Ministry of Racial Equality.

It is important to add that the goals and actions agreed upon within the PJNV framework are included in the Multiannual Plan 2024/2027, with responsibilities assigned to the respective Ministries, as well as with defined indicators, metrics, and territorialization within this instrument. Furthermore, Decree 11.956/2024, through Article 14, provides for the establishment of a reference index for public policies aimed at black youth, to be formulated by the Ministry of Racial Equality and the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, known as the Black Youth Vulnerability Index.

Finally, it is added that the PJNV will be implemented primarily in municipalities that concentrate fifty percent of violent lethal crimes against black youth.