

Government wants to include religious groups in UN resolutions

Brasília only accepts reference to "feminist groups" in texts if resolutions also make mention of religious groups. The government has said that will defend in all the official texts the "biological facts: man and woman "and even seized a debate on arms trafficking to veto the word "gender".

By Jamil Chade

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GENEVA - The Itamaraty conservative move at the UN has won a new chapter with the Jair Bolsonaro's government insisting on the recognition of religious groups in a resolution to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Since last week, Brazilian diplomats have been instructed to veto a series of terms in the texts of documents to be voted in the UN. The most controversial of them was "gender," widely used in resolutions in the last 25 years.

On Monday, at a meeting convened by Canada to negotiate the draft resolution on combating violence against women, Brazil has made a new request: to include the recognition of the role of religious groups in the struggle for women's rights and the protection of girls.

In diplomatic jargon, the term used is "faith-based groups." Brazil still gave an option: if such inclusion was not accepted in the resolution, then the suggestion was to withdraw from paragraph references to other civil society groups. Between the references that would be eliminated, in this case the term "feminists groups" would be one.

Who claimed support for Brazil was the government of Egypt, one of the leaders of the group of Muslim authoritarian states that tries to prevent UN from widening rights.

For Latin American diplomats, the Brazilian initiative should have the support of the Islamic groups, due to the attempt to imprint a religious view whereas women's rights issues are treated.

Other negotiators, however, saw the Brazilian action as a blunt target against feminist groups. As the inclusion of a paragraph on religious groups would be accepted, the bargain could end with the elimination of all groups, especially feminists.

The resolution goes to the vote in 15 days.

Hours later, at another UN meeting to discuss another resolution, Brazil claimed for the inclusion of the term "religious groups" in another text. The attitude that was repeated

was seen by governments as a demonstration that the religious character of the government will be wide.

For Itamaraty, or the list of civil society groups should be eliminated or it should include religious groups. For the EU and Australia, it is important that names of civil society entities are in the text, making clear the position of feminist groups.

Moments later, still in the same draft resolution proposed by Mexico on combating discrimination against women, once again Brazil asked to speak on two occasions to once again request the term's inclusion in the text.

Within the government, there is no mystery about the important influence of groups in various ministries. But so far, the formulation of foreign policy had been preserved. The new guidelines show that, despite being a secular state, Bolsonaro government will not hesitate to defend mentions to religious groups and a world view based on a certain faith.

200 resolutions

As has already occurred in three other resolutions, Brazil has once again asked Canadians and Mexicans to eliminate all references to the term "gender". The Brazilian delegation indicated that it would not be flexible about that point and that would defend the "biological facts: man and woman".

The government's attention to the matter is such that, at a meeting on the negotiation of a resolution on arms trafficking, Itamaraty wanted the elimination of the word "gender."

In another meeting, the Brazilian government indicated that, in its understanding, "gender is biological." Immediately, the government of Mexico reacted, insisting that gender is an internationally accepted term and will not be flexible on that point.

Itamaraty still gave its support to the Russians, especially when the Kremlin suggested that the term "universal access to reproductive and sexual health" be removed. For Brazil, this would suggest the right to abortion.

The Brazilian government also gave its support to proposals from Egypt and Pakistan, all of them in the sense of not applying the recognition of rights.

But Itamaraty saw, once again, strong opposition from the Westerners. The EU, for example, has indicated that all references to gender should remain, the same position was adopted by Colombia, Australia, Israel, Uruguay and France.

The government of Mexico was one of the most forceful critics to Brazil.

According to the delegation of the Latin American country, there are already about 200 internationally-agreed resolutions and declarations with reference to the word "gender".

An action by Brazil to dismantle this framework would mean a regression of 25 years in the advances of diplomatic language.

Source: [UOL](#)