SUBMISSION FOR THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (FOURTH CYCLE):
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Report: The human rights violations of the homeless population in Brazil

Prepared and signed by:

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION (INRua):
Rua Voluntários da Pátria, No 233, Sala 52.
Center of Curitiba, Paraná, state of Brazil
inruabrasil@gmail.com

CONECTAS DIREITOS HUMANOS:
Mailbox 47 - São Paulo (SP), Brazil
CEP: 01032-970 - Tel: +55 (11) 3884-7440
carolina.diniz@conectas.org

Supported by:
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF PARANÁ
Rua Benjamin Lins, 779, 3 Floor, Curitiba, state of Paraná, Brazil.
nucidh@defensoria.pr.def.br

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO
Rua Boa Vista, No. 150, Center of the City of São Paulo, state of São Paulo, Brazil
nucleo.dh@defensoria.sp.def.br

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1. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION (INRua), Society Organization of Public Interest, registered with the CNPJ/MF under n.° CNPJ nº29.931.316/0001-89, headquartered at Rua voluntários da pátria, 233, Sala 52. Center of Curitiba, Paraná, state of Brazil, represented by the CONECTAS DIREITOS HUMANOS, a non-profit association qualified as a Civil Society Organization of Public Interest, registered with the CNPJ/MF under no. 04.706.954/0001-75 headquartered at Avenida Paulista, 575, 19th floor, São Paulo – SP; the PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF PARANÁ and the PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE OF THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO, permanent institution, essential to the jurisdictional function of the State, responsible for the promotion of human rights and the defense of individual and collective rights, in full and free of charge, to the needy (Article 134 of the Federal Constitution Brazilian Law and Complementary Federal Law No. 80/1994), through theirs Specialized Nucleus of Citizenship and Human Rights, with address for subpoena, respectively, at Rua Benjamin Lins, No 779, 3 floor, Batel, Curitiba, state of Paraná, Brazil, and Rua Boa Vista, No. 150, Center of the City of São Paulo, state of São Paulo, Brazil, respectfully come to the UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP, of the High Commissioner of the United Nations (UN), to present informations on the human rights violations from the third cycle recommendations of the UPR.

1.1 The National Institute for Human Rights of the Homeless Population-INRua, a Civil Society Organization, that aims to protect, advise and to ensure the realization of the fundamental guarantees of the homeless population, through the confrontation of all forms of violence and violation to which these people are daily submitted. Presents as its primary purpose the intention to enhance access to public policies and structuring services for this population group, to ensure them adequate service to meet their needs for a dignified existence.

1.1. CONECTAS DIREITOS HUMANOS, a non-profit association qualified as a Civil Society Organization of Public Interest. Conectas was founded in 2001 as a collective effort of professionals, academics and activists. An NGO founded and seated in Brazil, seeking to address the international human rights agenda from a Global South perspective.
1.2. The Public Defenders of the State of Paraná and the State of São Paulo are public bodies responsible for the defense of vulnerable people, promoting individual or collective actions. They have the function to plead in the international human rights system, as provided in Article 4 of Bill No. 80 of 1994. In the present report, the Public Defenders are only supporting the National Institute of Human Rights of the Homeless Population (INRua).

ABOUT THE INCREASE OF POVERTY AND HUNGER IN BRAZIL

2. This report presents the intense increase of poverty at the national level and the growing number of homeless people in the country. This reality violates the reports already released during the Third Universal Periodic Review (UPR), especially those related to the fight against poverty, promotion of social equality, the right to good health and to adequate nutrition. This scenario was potentialized because of the COVID-19 pandemic, when it was noticed an increase in the number of people living in the streets, as well as the change of the profile from these homeless citizens1. Likewise, the study elaborated by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), verified that, only in 2020, the estimated number of homeless people had already reached, approximately 221,000 persons2.

3. Only in the city of São Paulo, capital which concentrates the biggest number of homeless population in the country and held this account during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was ascertained an increase in this number of 31% in the last two years. Currently, the official data points to the existence of 31,884 people living in the streets of São Paulo.

3.1. On this particular point, it is necessary to register that Brazil commits for centuries a serious omission regarding the homeless population. Until today there is no official count of the number of citizens who survive on the streets of the country by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics-IBGE, the main provider of geographical information and statistics in Brazil. The absence of precise demographic data hinders the elaboration of effective public policies to overcome the situation of vulnerability. There is a clear discrimination between those who own a house and those who don't, because that Institute performs its demographic count from a domiciliary criterion. This directly violates Recommendations 373 and 384.

4. Also in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brazilian Research Network on Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security, along with ActionAid Brazil, FES-Brazil and Oxfam Brazil, conducted the National Survey on Food Insecurity in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Brazil. Through this report, it was found that in 2021, 19.1 million Brazilians would be going hungry in Brazil, while 116.8 million would be in a food-insecure condition5.

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3 37. Take measures to eliminate cases of discrimination against certain groups in society (Iraq);
4 38 Support initiatives and strategies to combat discrimination and promote the inclusion of vulnerable persons (Madagascar);
5. Nevertheless, despite the serious increase in hunger, especially among homeless people, an absence of new policies to fight hunger has been noted. Instead: there are records of local bills that sought to prohibit the donation of food to this population (under penalty of a fine), while the funds spent at the federal level were not sufficient to prevent the reinsertion of Brazil in the Hunger Map⁶.

6. In addition, some services provided by municipalities (that are responsible for the execution of social assistance services to the vulnerable population), require the payment of fees for access, as is the case with popular restaurants. However, this practice disregards that this segment of the population usually performs informal work. Thus, the pandemic and its consequent social distancing rules extinguished the reduced income of people who were already in a situation of extreme poverty and vulnerability.

7. This scenario has led to a greater dependency on the supply of food donated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, even these supplies have proven insufficient to ensure the right to food for the homeless population.

8. The absence of efficient public policies to ensure the food security of homeless people has given rise, in the state of São Paulo, to lawsuits to guarantee the distribution of food.

9. In Paraná, in the city of Curitiba, the State Public Defender's Office proposed a Public Civil Action (a kind of class action in the Brazilian legal system) to ensure basic rights to the homeless population during the health crisis of the COVID-19. Reports were collected that just for lunch, a single NGO promoted the donation of approximately 400 meals, because numerous people did not have access to enough food. This led to the filing of the Public Civil Action No. 0002117-33.2020.8.16.0004, through which, among other measures, the guarantee of free food for the city's homeless population was pleaded.

10. The homeless population from the city of São Paulo faced similar problems in relation to feeding. The São Paulo State Public Defender's Office also had to file a Public Civil Action, No. 1049641-77.2020.8.26.0053, because the State government stopped providing free food, despite the pandemic context of COVID-19.

11. It is clear that Brazil is not responding to a series of recommendations that were made during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), especially those concerning poverty and the prevention of social regression. In this context, we can emphasize the violation of the Recommendation 50 (made by Iran)⁷, which points out the need to adopt programs that guarantee the eradication of poverty, and Recommendation 143 (made by Ivory Coast)⁸, which emphasizes the importance of maintaining policies that promote the reduction of poverty.

**ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE HOUSING**

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⁷ 50 Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, and continue efforts towards inclusive socioeconomic development programmes with a focus on poverty eradication (Islamic Republic of Iran).

⁸ 143 Continue the substantive efforts in the area of governance and poverty reduction (Côte d'Ivoire).
12. In addition, this extreme social vulnerability experienced by homeless people demonstrates that the Brazilian State does not comply with the recommendations regarding access to adequate housing.

13. The housing programs developed by the Brazilian state disregard the population in situations of extreme vulnerability, especially the homeless population. A research conducted by the architect and urban planner Luiz Kohara on the federal government's housing program for low-income population, *Minha Casa Minha Vida*, found that since the beginning of this program in 2009 until today, only 200 housing units have been allocated to homeless people.9

**ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH AND BASIC SANITATION**

14. The lack of adequate housing policies for the homeless population makes their access to other human rights impossible, enhancing the vulnerability already experienced by citizens living on the streets.

15. However, the public power continues to focus on the repeated use of temporary shelter facilities, such as hostels, social hotels, or hostels that do not guarantee permanent housing protection.

15.1 Moreover, despite the insufficiency of public policies aimed at this population, evictions and other judicial and extrajudicial measures, that directly affect the right to housing, have continued to occur, deepening the Brazilian housing deficit and increasing the number of people living on the streets10.

16. In light of the above, it is notable that currently, the Brazilian state has repeatedly violated the recommendations that guide access to decent housing for all citizens. In this perspective, we point out the violation of the Recommendations 136 and 137 (proposed by Angola and Bangladesh, respectively), that indicate the need to reinforce the housing policies for the middle and low income population11, promoting an expansion of decent housing for the whole population12.

17. Inadequate access to food and minimal housing conditions alone directly affect the right to health of the homeless population, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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11 136 Strengthen the public policies to reduce the housing shortage and create conditions for access to affordable housing for middle-and low-income households (Angola).

12 137 Continue efforts to ensure adequate housing for all (Bangladesh).
18. This is because access to basic items for personal hygiene purposes, such as toilets and drinking water, is not consistently ensured for the homeless population. This access was severely compromised in the pandemic period, marked by the imposition of social isolation and closure of commercial and service establishments.

19. The health situation of homeless people is also a delicate and problematic picture in Brazil. According to research conducted in Brazil, there is a low adherence of the municipalities to the Street Clinic service—a program established nationally by the Ministry of Health of Brazil—which, in turn, compromises the provision of essential health care to the homeless population, who do not have a fixed address. Also, the bureaucratization of public health services to the homeless population, especially where there is no service by the Street Clinic service, has been hampering their access to health care.

20. A research conducted by the Institute for Applied Economics Research (IPEA) found that although many Brazilian municipalities have implemented public policies to combat the spread of COVID-19, there is a risk that emergency measures may be undone, compromising the access to health care of the homeless population.

21. This reality demonstrates that the homeless population segment is inserted in a state of constant violation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) related to the right to health. We emphasize, in this regard, the violation of Recommendations 152 and 153 (issued by Nepal and Sri Lanka, respectively), which indicate the need for health policies that benefit all citizens and reduce differences in life expectancy among Brazilian citizens. Furthermore, the difficulties faced by homeless people in accessing drinking water and toilets compromise the fulfillment of Recommendation no. 147 (formulated by Turkey), which calls for the intensification of efforts to provide access to drinking water and basic sanitation.

ABOUT THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE HOMELESS POPULATION

22. Because of the extreme vulnerability and complete absence of housing protection for homeless people, they are more susceptible to urban violence.

23. In June 2019, the Ministry of Health (Brazil), through the Secretariat of Health Surveillance, published Bulletin No. 14, Volume 50, which presents data on violence suffered by the homeless population in the period from 2015 to 2017.

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15 152 Continue efforts to develop and implement inclusive health and education policies to benefit all segments of society (Nepal).
16 153 Continue strengthening efforts for providing quality and accessible health facilities and services to improve the disparity in life expectancy among the populations (Sri Lanka).
17 147 Strengthen endeavours to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation through installing water and sanitation networks (Turkey).
24. According to data from the Federal Government, in a three-year interval, until 2017, 17,386 homeless people were victims of violence. It was found that the preeminent motivation for the occurrence of violence was precisely the street situation\textsuperscript{18}

25. The main aggressions are: a) physical violence (16,149 victims); b) psychological/moral violence (4,025 victims); c) sexual violence (673 victims); d) neglect and abandonment (460 victims).

26. Despite the high rate of violence cases, the number of aggression and victims is higher than that presented by the official data. This is because the Federal Government's study indicates flaws in the registration of notifications of violence, and it is conclusive that not all victims sought the assistance of official agencies, which makes it difficult to register and count the cases.

27. The violence against the homeless population did not decrease during the period of the pandemic. In May 2020, a homeless man was tied to a truck and killed due to being dragged through the streets of downtown São Luís, the capital of Maranhão\textsuperscript{19}. In Belém of Pará, a man sleeping in the city streets was approached by private security agents and assaulted without any chance of defense. A taser was used in the reported assaults.\textsuperscript{20} In the state of Goiás, in February 2022, a homeless man was beaten to death while sleeping on the street.\textsuperscript{21}

28. In 2021, the Federal Government's Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights received 663 reports of violations against homeless people.\textsuperscript{22}

29. Not prioritizing housing policies for homeless people and preventing them from having their belongings with them increases the suffering and violence against this population.

30. The reported violence is only an occasional record of what occurs daily with the homeless population in the centers of the main cities in Brazil.

\textsuperscript{18} Secretariat of Health Surveillance of the Ministry of Health (Brazil). \textit{Homeless People and Violence—An Analysis of Notifications in Brazil from 2015 to 2017}. Epidemiological Bulletin 14, Vol. 50, June, 2019. Retrieved from \url{http://biblioteca.cofen.gov.br/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Populac%C3%A7%C3%A7%C3%A7%C3%B5o-de-rua-e-viol%C3%A7%C3%B5es-no-Brasil-de-2015-a-2017.pdf}


\textsuperscript{21} \url{https://g1.globo.com/go/goias/noticia/2022/02/17/morador-de-rua-e-morto-a-pauladas-em-porangatucu-veja-video.shtml}.

\textsuperscript{22} OLIVEIRA, Rafael (2022, February 17). Homeless guy is killed by a thump in Porangatu. \textit{Globo}. Retrieved March 31, 2022, from \url{https://www.sbtnews.com.br/noticia/policia/182436-casos-de-violencia-contra-moradores-de-rua-sao-investigados-no-rj}.
31. Furthermore, the investigations to identify and hold the perpetrators accountable are not conducted and concluded with the necessary diligence. For example, until today, among the perpetrators of the massacre in the Sé Square (São Paulo), where seven homeless people were brutally murdered, none has been held responsible by the Brazilian State. Concerning this case, there is a suspicion that state agents were involved in the killings. This situation only reinforces the situation of indigence to which these people are subjected.

32. This reality demonstrates that the homeless population segment is inserted in a constant state of violation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report (RPU), especially Recommendation 62 (issued by Botswana)\(^23\); Recommendation 63 (issued by the Czechia)\(^24\); Recommendation 64 (issued by France)\(^25\) and Recommendation 38 (issued by Madagascar)\(^26\).

**ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF BELONGINGS FROM HOMELESS PEOPLE BY STATE AGENTS**

33. Besides all the violations suffered by people living on the streets in the states of the Brazilian Federation, it is necessary to register that in several cities of the country, the public agents remove belongings (such as blankets, mattresses, personal documents, objects, etc.) from homeless populations.

34. In the years of 2018, 2019, 2020 and up to the current year, the Paraná Public Defender's Office has received numerous complaints from people living on the streets, reporting the same regrettable situation: Curitiba's city hall, through its urban cleaning agents, has systematically collected their personal belongings, such as backpacks, mattresses, medicines, and even personal documents.

35. Because of this situation, the Public Defender's Office of Paraná has filed a lawsuit in an attempt to prohibit the local government from continuing to remove the personal belongings of homeless people.\(^27\)

36. In the city of Belo Horizonte, in the state of Minas Gerais, the practice of taking the belongings of homeless people is also recurrent. There, the non-governmental organization "Coletivo Margarida Alves" filed a lawsuit seeking to impede the city government from

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\(^{23}\) Ensure investigations and recommend action against abuses by law enforcers, as a way of curbing violations (Botswana);

\(^{24}\) Strengthen prevention and effectiveness of investigation of cases of police violence thorough improved supervision and human rights training of law enforcement personnel, namely the military police, and ensure accountability for any acts of police violence (Czechia);

\(^{25}\) Ensure that acts of violence committed by members of security forces are prosecuted in order to combat impunity (France);

\(^{26}\) Support initiatives and strategies to combat discrimination and promote the inclusion of vulnerable persons (Madagascar);

\(^{27}\) Curitiba City Hall is forbidden to remove the belongings of the homeless people. *Globo*. Retrieved in March 31, 2022, from <https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2020/01/25/prefeitura-de-curitiba-e-proibida-de-recolher-pertences-de-moradores-de-rua.shtml >.
removing the belongings of homeless people. In 2019, the Court of Justice of Minas Gerais maintained the court decision that prevents the belongings removals.\(^{28}\)

37. In the city of Florianópolis, in the state of Santa Catarina, there are reports that employees of the urban cleaning company and the Military Police promote the collection of personal belongings of homeless people and force them to leave public places.\(^{29}\)

38. In the same way, in São Paulo, there are reports that urban cleaning agents remove mattresses and blankets from homeless people, even in periods of cold weather in the city. Such practices already occurred in 2016 and continue to happen in the present moment.\(^{30}\) The Public Defender of the state of São Paulo has already filed two public civil actions on the subject: The first one related to events that occurred in 2017, in which the sentence was favorable, and the state was condemned, and the other one related to the removal of belongings—including medicines and tents—during the pandemic.

39. It is important to register that, in most cases, the removal of objects from these people is accompanied by verbal aggression and humiliation carried out by the security and urban cleaning agents.

40. In Brazilian cities where the temperatures are colder, the subtraction of mattresses and blankets can increase the cases of death by hypothermia of these people who live on the streets.

41. This reality demonstrates that the homeless population segment is inserted in a reality of constant violations of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR), especially the Recommendations 139 (issued by Nicaragua), Recommendation 50 (issued by Iran), Recommendation 136 (issued by Angola), Recommendation 63 (issued by the Czech Republic), Recommendation 137 (issued by Bangladesh), Recommendation 147 (issued by Uzbekistan) Recommendation 144 (issued by Lebanon); Recommendation 38 (issued by Madagascar); Recommendation 59 (issued by Rwanda) and Recommendation 235 (issued by Singapore).

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**ABOUT THE HOMELESS CHILDREN**

42. The situation of homeless children and adolescents is alarming in Brazil. These people are especially vulnerable because of their development process. They have to fight daily for survival, against exploration of work, structural racism, low education, and against violence.

43. In 2020, research conducted by the "Little Nazarene" Charity Association and the International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood of the Pontifical Catholic

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\(^{29}\) Information given by the Public Defender of the State of Santa Catarina Ref. PAC n. 11/2021/NUCIDH.

\(^{30}\) G1SP. *Priest Julio Lancellotti denounces the removal of mattresses and blankets from homeless people in SP by the City Hall's cleaning teams*. Retrieved March 30, 2022, from http://glo.bo/3JWIsKoj.
University of Rio de Janeiro, pointed out that the vulnerable situation of children and adolescents living on the streets was aggravated during the pandemic. The data shows that 89% of the children and adolescents are black and 88% have already reported having suffered violence on the streets and 97% have suffered violence in institutional shelter spaces. In addition, 28% of the children and adolescents living on the streets are subjected to forced labor, drug trafficking, and begging. Also, according to the study, 50% of the children and adolescents interviewed reported that the main agents of violence are public security agents.

44. According to research undertaken by a non-governmental organization, "World Vision", in 2019, it was estimated that about 70 thousand children lived on the streets in Brazil. The absence of basic sanitation, violence, lack of adequate food, and abandonment are the main issues for the reality of life on the streets.

45. This reality demonstrates that the homeless population segment is inserted in a constant state of violation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR), especially Recommendation 132 (issued by Ethiopia); Recommendation 133 (issued by Pakistan); Recommendation 139 (issued by Nicaragua); Recommendation 50 (issued by Iran); Recommendation 136 (issued by Angola); Recommendation 63 (issued by the Czech Republic); Recommendation 137 (issued by Bangladesh); Recommendation 147 (issued by Uzbekistan); Recommendation 144 (issued by Lebanon); Recommendation 38 (issued by Iran).

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32 TEIXEIRA, Gabriel; MESSIAS, Letícia. First childhood in the street: lifes ignored by statistics. Nexo Jornal, retrieved in March 31, 2022, from <https://www.nexojornal.com.br/reportagem/2022/01/20/Primeira-inf%C3%A1ncia-na-rua-as-vidas-ignoradas-pela-estat%C3%ADstica>

33 Further continue the combating of slave and child labour in the country (Ethiopia)

34 Redouble efforts to further reduce the income gap between the Afro-Brazilians, especially Afro-Brazilian women, and the general population (Pakistan);

35 Continue to implement and strengthen public policies and programmes for inclusion, reduction of poverty and inequality, non-discrimination and promotion of equality and inclusion (Nicaragua);

36 Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, and continue efforts towards inclusive socioeconomic development programmes with a focus on poverty eradication (Uzbekistan)

37 Strengthen the public policies to reduce the housing shortage and create conditions for access to affordable housing for middle-and low-income households (Angola);

38 Strengthen prevention and effectiveness of investigation of cases of police violence thorough improved supervision and human rights training of law enforcement personnel, namely the military police, and ensure accountability for any acts of police violence (Czechia);

39 Continue efforts to ensure adequate housing for all (Bangladesh);

40 Strengthen endeavours to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation through installing water and sanitation networks (Turkey);

41 Continue efforts to combat poverty and to promote social equality (Lebanon);
by Madagascar)\textsuperscript{42}; Recommendation 59 (issued by Rwanda)\textsuperscript{43} and Recommendation 235 (issued by Singapore)\textsuperscript{44}.

46. The situations of extreme vulnerability of the homeless population in Brazil are aggravated by the absence of safe housing. As a result of this extreme poverty, social exclusion and prejudice against these people, they are more exposed to situations of violence, state neglect, hunger, disease, and risk of death. In Brazil, people living on the streets are still invisible citizens. Therefore, the Brazilian State violates numerous Recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review Cycle, such as:

- Recommendation 37;
- Recommendation 38;
- Recommendation 50;
- Recommendation 59;
- Recommendation 62;
- Recommendation 63;
- Recommendation 64;
- Recommendation 136;
- Recommendation 137;
- Recommendation 139;
- Recommendation 143;
- Recommendation 144;
- Recommendation 147;
- Recommendation 152;
- Recommendation 153;
- Recommendation 235.

LEONILDO JOSÉ MONTEIRO DA SILVA
President of InRua
The National Institute Of Human Rights Of The Homeless Population

CAROLINA DINIZ
OAB/SP 249,834
Conectas Human Rights

\textsuperscript{42} Support initiatives and strategies to combat discrimination and promote the inclusion of vulnerable persons (Madagascar);
\textsuperscript{43} Strengthen measures to prevent abuses by some law enforcement officials, including through providing appropriate human rights training (Rwanda);
\textsuperscript{44} Continue to invest in poverty alleviation policies and to ensure more effective and targeted implementation, so as to reduce social and economic inequality, in particular for rural populations and indigenous peoples (Singapore);
ANTONIO VITOR BARBOSA DE ALMEIDA
Public Defender of the State of Paraná

FERNANDA PENTEADO BALERA
Public Defender of the State of São Paulo

DAVI QUINTANILHA FAILDE DE AZEVEDO
Public Defender of the State of São Paulo

LETICIA MARQUEZ DE AVELAR
Public Defender of the State of São Paulo

MATHEUS MAFRA
Legal Assistant of the Public Defender’s Office of the State of Paraná