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The Embassy of Brazil presents its compliments to the Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and has the honor to refer to the inclusion of Brazil's charcoal on Executive Order 13126 list, as updated by the Department of Labor on July 20, 2010. The Brazilian government is of the view that the inclusion of Brazil's charcoal in that list is wrong and unfair. It does not reflect recent developments in Brazil nor the most recent studies on the incidence of child labor and forced labor in charcoal production.

2. An analysis of the bibliography used for that product corroborates that the inclusion is a mistake. The first source, an online article from the newspaper *O Globo*, dated July 2008, mentioned a case in which no forced child labor was found. The second source is a 2004 article, in which, based on the 2001 National Household Sampling Survey (PNAD), it is stated that Brazil had child labor problems, mainly in the Northeast and Central Western regions. The third source is a 2003 ILO study, which used data from prior to 2001. The fourth source is another ILO study, which discusses child labor conditions around the world. The study mentions problems in Brazil's rural areas, using data from the 1980s and 1990s. Finally, the fifth source refers to a U.S. government's document on human rights in Brazil. As far as child labor is concerned, this document is based on the 2006 PNAD, which included a specific survey on child labor. According to the 2006 PNAD, there were cases of child labor in forest extraction activities (26,209 children and teenagers) and in agricultural work (829,140 children and teenagers). However, it does not mention charcoal production. All the sources used are outdated and do not deal specifically with charcoal production.

2. Combating child labor, along with strongly favoring education, has been a priority on the Brazilian national agenda since the 1990s. The rate of child labor in the 5 to 15-year-old age group dropped from 13.6 percent to 5.8 percent from 1992 to 2008. During the same period, the rate for the 5 to 9-year olds fell from 3.6 percent to 0.9 percent. Also, the rate for the 7 to 15-year-old age group fell from 18 percent to 7 percent and their school attendance increased from 85 percent to 97 percent.

3. Brazil's Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA) released a study in November 2009, which reports a sharp reduction in instances of child labor in all age groups over the last 15 years. The incidence of child labor in the 5 to 14-year-old age group fell almost to a third, and in the 5 to 9 year old group, to a quarter. If the pace achieved over the last decade and a half is maintained, within 25 years Brazil will reduce child labor (5 to 14-year-olds) to less than a fifth of its current figures. This pace is not only faster than the speed proposed for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, but it is also two times faster than the world average.

4. Charcoal production has not turned out cases of child labor in recent years. According to data from the Federal Labor Inspection System, from January 2007 to June 2010, 1,803 inspections were carried out by the Brazilian Ministry of Labor and Employment in this field and no children younger than 15 were found. According to data from the 2006 PNAD, there was not a single site with child labor in this field of activity anywhere in Brazilian territory.

5. Brazil ratified ILO Conventions 138 and 182 in 2001 and 2000, respectively. In compliance with the latter, Brazil established, through Decree no. 6481, in June 2008, a new list of hazardous occupations, which individuals younger than 18 are barred from performing. It is entitled the List of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The list includes a set of economic activities, including charcoal production. Brazil also launched the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Protection of Teenage Workers, having established the year 2015 as the deadline for eliminating the worst forms of child labor, and 2020, for eliminating all forms of child labor in compliance with the Decent Work in the Americas: an Agenda for the Hemisphere, adopted by the 16th American Regional Meeting of the ILO, held in Brasilia in May 2006.

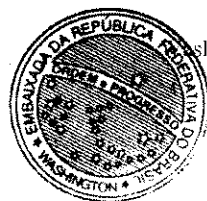
6. The progress achieved allowed Brazil to move from beneficiary of technical cooperation from the ILO International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor to provider of help to other countries, through South-South cooperation initiatives to combat child labor, which have benefited Portuguese-speaking African countries and Haiti. In December 2007, Brazil and the ILO launched an initiative to promote cooperation projects and activities, encompassing South Africa and India. Brazil has been an active member of the Global Task Force on Child Labor and Education for All.

7. The latest ILO Global Report on Child Labor includes a list of good practices carried out by Brazil that were adopted in other countries and are considered examples to be followed. Information provided by the "Understanding Children's Work" organization at the Hague Global Child Labor Conference, in May 2010, noted Brazil as an example, due to the fact that data indicate rapid progress both in reducing child labor and increasing schooling among children and teenagers.

8. The Brazilian government would like to request the U.S. government to review the inclusion of Brazil's charcoal on the Executive Order 13126 list in light of the information provided above.

9. The Embassy of Brazil takes this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Washington, D.C., August 13 2010