



## **54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

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*Deputy Executive-Secretary of the Ministry of Citizenship*

Mr. President,

Throughout the world, COVID-19 has highlighted existing weaknesses in food systems, exacerbated inequalities and vulnerabilities and compounded challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food security worldwide. By increasing poverty, disrupting public health and school feeding programs and undermining major nutrition programs, the pandemic has the great potential of increasing the number of people enduring all forms of malnutrition.

Facing one of the greatest humanitarian crises in our history, the Federal Government, under the leadership of President Jair Bolsonaro and the guidance of Ministry of Citizenship, enhanced the social protection network, promoted food security, reduced extreme poverty and reduced inequality in Brazil to historical levels, in 2020.

The Ministry of Citizenship strengthened its social programs and provided the necessary support to those most vulnerable to face the crisis. Around 10%

of the Brazilian GDP were invested in social assistance policies and job protection.

Mr. President,

Promoting the right to food and ensuring food and nutritional security requires a consistent legal and regulatory framework. Brazil has developed a strong governance, institutionalized by the National System of Food and Nutritional Security, which encourages the integration of efforts to guarantee food security by enabling and fostering intersectoral coordination for the development and implementation of public policies. It aims at minimizing social and food vulnerability situations, seeking to guarantee access to sustainable water and food.

The Brazilian government has worked to enhance its capacity to fulfill the human right to adequate food, by implementing actions that combine programs of conditional cash transfer and promotion and support of production, supply and access to food. These include the Bolsa Família Program, the Food Acquisition Program, and, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Emergency Aid, all of which have enabled access to food for the most vulnerable in Brazil.

Brazil has also worked to provide food security and foster sustainable family farming. About 100 million dollars have been directed to the purchase of products from family farming, in the context of the Food Acquisition Program. Approximately 85 thousand families of family farmers are expected to benefit, in addition to millions of families in social vulnerability who have received the purchased food.

Brazil believes that food and nutritional security is fundamental for the promotion of the exercise of citizenship. By understanding and addressing the challenges involved in tackling severe food insecurity and diseases resulting from malnutrition, Brazil, along with several other countries here represented, have enhanced its efforts to tackle the global food issue affecting different regions of the planet.

An evidence-based understanding of the interrelationship between demographic trends and food systems; food security and nutrition; and relevant policy responses will be an essential input to broader international discussions of food security, nutrition and food systems in 2021, including at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, to be held at the UN General Assembly in September.

Brazil believes that the promotion of healthy food and the protection of the right to adequate food involve the establishment of sustainable food systems, with the participation of local communities, through efficient public policies.

Actions to improve food security and nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic – including targeted social protection programs, mainly for vulnerable food system workers, and policies to foster production and distribution diversity and resilience – can also contribute to a long-term food system transformation.

High and complex tariffs in the agriculture and food sectors, trade-distorting domestic support and unfair sanitary and phytosanitary measures don't contribute to our efforts. New and creative solutions are needed to endure this crisis.

The international community can count on Brazil as a reliable partner to improve food security around the world through a sustainable and healthy supply.

Thank you.