



52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development

**General Debate
Brazil's national statement**

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Mr. Chair,

Brazil is pleased to bring good news about the Program of Action proposed in Cairo. Over the last 25 years, we have taken a broad set of measures to implement the goals. we face the future with a lot of optimism, based on the values which elected President Bolsonaro and the commitment of the new Government.

Our population – over 200 million – is today, the fifth largest in the world. We see our people as a richness and we are projecting several policies to give them quality of life and choice, departing from education and work. There has been a substantial reduction of infant mortality in Brazil in the last decades, as a consequence of improved health policies. From 42.9 per thousand births in 1994 to 12.9 in 2017. Similarly, we have witnessed a large increase in life expectancy. From about 65 years (at birth) in 1994, life expectancy reached 76 years in 2017.

Access to education and health has also expanded substantially over the last few decades. With the approval of the Law of Guidelines and Bases of Education, in 1996, Brazil practically

achieved universal elementary education. We are also promoting access to secondary and higher education. Likewise, we are determined to provide the legal foundations for meeting the increasing demand for home schooling in Brazil, recognizing the right of parents to choose the system of education for their children.

The Government has a special concern to guarantee health to all citizens, through the Universal Health System (SUS), accessible to any Brazilian, regardless of their condition. As the Minister for Women, Family and Human Rights, Damara Alves, has stated, the Bolsonaro Government has, as its main premise, the inclusion of all Brazilians.

President Bolsonaro is also determined to ensure health coverage and expanded access to medicines with a special regard to overlooked groups, such as those individuals afflicted by rare diseases. The rate of urbanization in Brazil rose significantly in the last decades. In 1970s, the urban population surpassed the number living in rural areas. Today, only around 10% of the population still lives and works in rural areas. For both populations the Government has a special concern with the conditions of life and development.

Brazil had managed to significantly reduce poverty and extreme poverty rates over the last few decades, achieving the Millennium Development Goal for poverty reduction ahead of schedule. We are overjoyed that the Brazilian population lives longer, in better health conditions and receives higher pensions than 25 years ago. But this trend has caused a significant imbalance in the Brazilian social security system. For this reason, an ambitious social security reform project is underway in the National Congress, which could save around US\$ 250 billion in public expenditure, over 10 years, while safeguarding the rights of older persons and retired individuals.

The President has announced plans to streamline regulation, privatize state companies, liberalize trade and reform the tax system. Together with pension system reform, these measures will reduce current unemployment and informality in the labor market, reduce inequalities at all levels and promote sustained economic growth which is also a strong goal, considering the potential of the country.

The role of women in Brazilian society is central to the implementation of the goals of the Cairo's Program of Action. In Brazil, women have better rates of education at all levels. There are, however, still challenges in the world of work, where women still receive a lower paycheck for equivalent jobs than men. Likewise, in politics, Brazil still has relatively small representation of women in Congress, although currently we have achieved the highest proportion of women, surpassing the mark of 15%.

As the Minister Damares Alves highlighted during the last session of the CSW, the Brazilian Government will prioritize the promotion of rights of women, particularly of the most vulnerable groups. The Government is convinced of the need to address, as a priority measure, violence against women, particularly femicide. Besides, a strong target of this Ministry is the social, economic and professional projection of women and the balance between work and family. We are also encouraging the engagement of civil society, the private sector and families as partners. Therefore, the government established a special focus on the family as a transversal topic, so that social problems can be stabilized and economic growth achieved as a consequence.

Brazil advocates a greater integration between the ICPD Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda. The last sessions of CPD, however, have concentrated on a few subjects which are viewed, in general, very differently among member states. As a result, important issues such as population ageing, inclusion of young people in the labor market, poverty reduction, among others, have had little visibility.

Brazil would like to invite the CPD to discuss overlooked topics contained in the Program of Action, focusing on consensus and fostering concrete action among states. This exchange of opinions and experience seems to be very important, since there were substantial changes in the last 25 years. Thus, all the participants could enlighten the debate to successfully set new goals for the upcoming years, regarding human flourishing and social development.

I thank you.