

Thank you.
Bianca Abreu.
Ministry of External Relations.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Madam Chairperson,

When most people think of Brazil, they usually visualize a vast territory covered with dense tropical forests and infinite plentiful rivers. Regrettably, this picture is not fully valid. Brazil has the most populous semi-arid region of the world.

Desertification is hence a key concern of Brazil. It is closely linked to poverty eradication and to sustainable development. While referring to desertification in this CSD session, we would like to highlight three points that we request be included in the policy options.

First, the implementation of the Convention must be strengthened for the well-being of the populations of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions, which remain the focus of the UNCCD's work under its 10-year Strategic Action Plan. Brazil supports the UNCCD Secretariat in achieving the objectives of the 10-year Strategic Action Plan and supports greater coordination with the Global Mechanism.

Access to the necessary means of implementation are essential to tackle desertification. Priority should be given to mobilizing new and additional resources and transferring technology to countries affected by drought and desertification. In this sense, there is a need for strengthening the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD through new and additional financial resources and improved accountability.

Madam Chairperson,

The second point is the impact of global warming caused by historically accumulated emissions from developed countries. According to the IPCC, climate change will increase the areas affected by drought. The current climate change scenarios point to the spread of desertification, with severe impacts on agriculture and, consequently, on the life of the poorer populations, the most vulnerable to this hazard. The eastern part of the Amazon region is especially vulnerable.

In this context, the implementation of the commitments under the UNCCD and the implementation of the National Action Programs are important instruments for adapting to this specific aspect of the impact of climate change. We must keep in mind, however, that climate change is one of the factors that lead to desertification and drought. When addressing the issue, we should guarantee that we point to a balanced

set of causes, including physical and social ones.

As we are discussing the links between the UNCCD and the UNFCCC, we would like to highlight that cooperation between these two Conventions is important, but that their integrity should always be respected, as well as their operational independence, since they have different mandates and compositions. As we acknowledge the complementarity of national policies to treat with both issues. and support the cooperation of the UNCCD with other Rio Conventions, we must bear in mind that the UNCCD remains as the only universal legally binding instrument to comprehensively address desertification.

Third and final point we request be included in the policy options., Madam Chairperson, is the importance of regional and South-South cooperation for the implementation of actions to tackle desertification and the implementation of the UNCCD, in line with Chapter 9 of the JPOI. Brazil actively engages in regional initiatives through greater exchange and cooperation between the countries of the Union of South American Countries and the Arab League, transfer of water storage technologies to Central American countries and cooperation with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries as well as with the MERCOSUL.

Thank you