

## **High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021**

### **General Debate**

Statement by H.E. Ms. Flávia Arruda, Chief-Minister of the Secretariat of Government

Federative Republic of Brazil

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Brazilian delegation joins the 2021 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in a collaborative spirit, presenting the national efforts to the achievement of the SDGs and looking forward to sharing knowledge and good practices. We are convinced that this event will contribute to achieve a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

With that in mind, I would like to reinforce the strong commitment of the Brazilian government with the sustainable development. We seek the balance of economic, social and environmental issues on our national policies, such as the Federal Development Strategy for 2020-2031, which embraces the three pillars of sustainable development. The Strategy defines a long-term vision for a stable and coherent evolution of the public administration, aligned with the principles of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

As the center of the government, the Secretariat of Government of the Presidency of the Republic is in charge of the coordination of the efforts towards the SDGs, and the process of defining the country's target priorities. The priorities will be a reference to guide subnational institutions, private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of sustainable development initiatives.

In this context, the Secretariat of Government is developing a communication strategy called Agenda Brasil + Sustentável (Agenda for a more sustainable Brazil). Having the Federal

Development Strategy as an umbrella guideline, the Agenda Brasil + Sustentável encompass the pivotal SDG targets for the country, according to the principle that governments should set their own targets taking into account national circumstances. The Agenda Brasil + Sustentável also uses the universal language of the SDGs to convey, in a better and transparent manner, the government's initiatives towards sustainable development, reinforcing the full sovereignty of our country regarding this theme. The strategy is a result of the contribution provided by 53 federal Government bodies, during 40 workshops held in 2021. The results of this task will be finished in the second semester of 2021 and published in our website.

We are confident that this process will be assertive to leverage the necessary synergies for the achievement of the SDGs, honoring the Brazilian commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development.

This year, the participants of the High Level Political Forum were invited to discuss SDGs 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17. As many other nations, Brazil still faces challenges to achieve these targets. The COVID-19 pandemic brought up additional challenges. During this period, the Brazilian government acted promptly to mitigate and to tackle the pandemic effects. For instance, at the very beginning of the pandemic, the Brazilian government launched a program called Auxílio Emergencial (Emergency Aid), a temporary support that transferred about USD 120 to informal and unemployed workers. The support for single-parents households was even higher, about USD 240, considering currency rates. During 2020, the Federal Government transferred U\$S 55 billion to these families, helping 68 million citizens to cope with this difficult period. The "Auxílio Emergencial" program was also responsible to avoid downfalls in national economy, contributing directly to SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 10.

The Brazilian government extended the program Auxilio Emergencial until October 2021. The current payments values are in a range of US\$ 30 to US\$ 75. We are protecting the most vulnerable while the country progresses on the population vaccine coverage, without compromising national fiscal balance. As an additional measure to mitigate the pandemic effects, the Brazilian government also decided to expand the program Bolsa Família. Recognized worldwide as one of

the most successful cash transfer programs, the Bolsa Família has a positive impact to reach the targets of SDGs 1 and 10.

Another example of a Brazilian initiative is the program Bioeconomia Brasil – Sociobiodiversidade (bioeconomy and sociobiodiversity), which intends to strengthen the productive chains that use natural resources in a sustainable way, generating income for small and medium farmers and traditional communities. The Ministry of Agriculture launches specific public calls to enable the financing of those projects, considering existing public policies that support bioeconomy initiatives. This program contributes to achievement of SDGs 2, 8, 12, 16 and 17.

The Federal Government recognizes the fundamental role of all the national actors that have been engaged on sustainable development, especially in the context of the Decade of Action. Given the magnitude of the obstacles, including financing needs and the necessary support to reach the SDGs goals, Brazil welcomes the cooperation from our fellow countries, transnational companies and international organizations to meet this common challenge. As our President has always stressed, our country is prone to cooperate internationally, certain that we can receive and provide relevant contributions to the international community.

Thank you.