Afghanistan Conference 2022: High Level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan

March 31, 2022

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho

Brazil has expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the progressive reduction of economic activity and reports of serious human rights violations, with an impact on the stability of the country, as well as potential regional and extra-regional repercussions.

We seek a political solution to the crisis with the support of the international community. We must create viable mechanisms to contain the prolonged political-institutional instability, the evolving humanitarian crisis and the overflowing activities of extremist groups.

It is up to the international community to identify ways to ensure the continued delivery of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable, with an emphasis on alleviating the immediate needs, especially for food and medicine. Brazil has supported the right of the Afghan people to access their assets retained abroad in order to alleviate the suffering caused by the humanitarian crisis.

The engagement of the international community with the interim authorities, albeit not representing its recognition for the time being, will be key to achieving the goals of a lasting peace and progress in Afghanistan, as well as the reconstruction of its infrastructure, the protection of civilians and respect for the fundamental rights of the Afghan people.

We are particularly concerned about the reversal of important advances made in securing the rights of women and girls. The UN Security Council recently issued a press release on this issue, urging the Taliban to respect the right to education for girls and to fulfill its commitments regarding the reopening of schools for women students.

The formation of an inclusive and pluralistic government could help ensure institutional stability. The announcement on September 28, 2021, of the temporary adoption of the 1964 Constitution by the interim authorities seems to point to the search for stability, a tendency to be confirmed when a new Constitution is adopted.

We propose that the contributions of each country be implemented to the extent of their differentiated capacities. In recent years, Brazil has developed technical cooperation projects with Afghanistan, such as the partnership established with
the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA) for training in agricultural extension offered to Afghan technicians. In the current context, Brazil grants temporary visas for humanitarian reception of Afghan nationals, stateless persons and people affected by the situation of serious or imminent institutional instability, serious violation of human rights or international humanitarian law in Afghanistan. It is an example of Brazil's commitment to human rights and international solidarity. As of last March 18, the granting of 1,869 visas to Afghans or people affected by the crisis in Afghanistan was authorized, under the protection of the Interministerial Ordinance nº 24/2021. Another 324 visa applications are under analysis.

In this context, taking into account the pressing needs of the Afghan people described in the Humanitarian Response Plan, I register that Brazil will provide humanitarian assistance in the amount of US$ 50,000 to contribute to the efforts of the international community in Afghanistan.