



Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

National Statement on Behalf of Brazil on the occasion of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2021

For the second year in a row, the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment is convened under difficult circumstances. Advances in vaccination against Covid-19 allow for cautious optimism, while shortfalls remind us of the striking impacts of global inequalities on the full enjoyment of the right to health. Against this ambiguous background, our collective humanitarian effort to assist those in acute need continues to face old and new challenges, while old and new crises bring us to an unprecedented situation on the humanitarian front, compounded by more than 82 million forced to abandon their homes, and more than 235 million people in need of humanitarian assistance - a 40% rise compared to 2020, mostly attributable to the pandemic. We pay tribute to all humanitarian workers on the frontlines of this struggle, who are facing increasingly complex and often dangerous scenarios, and without whose dedication and professionalism the recent strides in scaling up humanitarian assistance to unprecedented levels would not have been possible.

Brazil commends the efforts of President of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the co-facilitators and all delegations who worked constructively to achieve the goal of adopting by consensus our annual resolution on "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations". Brazil had the honor of serving as coordinator of the Group of 77 and China and, in this capacity, we worked in close consultations with all delegations towards a much-needed consensus. The result of such efforts is the adoption of an annual resolution that has important innovations and a sharp focus on essential humanitarian implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In order to achieve consensus on a range of very pressing issues, such as anticipatory action, education in crisis situations, and mental health and psychosocial support, we had to forego some other key aspects, including the necessity of coordination with Member States on humanitarian and development activities, as well as the importance of supporting national priorities and respecting humanitarian principles. These fundamental principles of the cooperation between Member States and humanitarian and development actors unfortunately were not adequately captured. Yet, they continue to prove essential on the ground, both for the effectiveness and legitimacy of humanitarian assistance and for the protection of humanitarian personnel.

In this context, Brazil also commends the President of Humanitarian Affairs Segment for putting together a comprehensive program that sheds light on interconnected challenges while also promoting discussions on solutions and opportunities. The issues of respect for International Humanitarian Law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnerships speak clearly to the contemporary features of humanitarian action, while offering clear, concrete benchmarks for further improvement. It is our hope that, in keeping with innovations that allow for broader participation, strengthened partnerships, and plurality of views, we can resume as soon as possible the practice of holding a general debate, in a format that brings to the fore the intergovernmental essence of this forum. The challenges ahead cannot be overcome without the legitimacy, coherence and strategic guidance that only the intergovernmental processes can provide for.

The focus of this year's resolution on health and the Covid-19-related impacts on the humanitarian field is an example of such strategic guidance. It states a clear priority and highlights aspects that will require our sustained attention. One of such aspects is, of course, "the fair, equitable, efficient, and affordable access to safe, efficacious, and effective COVID-19 vaccines", as well as the "importance of inclusive national vaccination programmes covering displaced persons, migrants, and refugees", with the support of UN agencies and in full coordination with national governments. In Brazil, universal healthcare is provided on a non-discriminatory basis and migrants and refugees are granted access to Covid-19 vaccines on a par with Brazilian nationals. Our inclusive national immunization programme goes hand in hand with the

emergency cash benefit to low-income families, established in the context of the pandemic, the largest cash-transfer program in Brazilian history, which also includes migrants and refugees without discrimination.

One of the side effects of COVID-19 was to hamper the access to medicines and food around the world and the international response to various natural disasters. In many cases, several logistics chains were affected by the pandemic, which in turn disrupted supply chains and had a colossal social and economic impact.

It is important to note that, in this context of the pandemic, Brazil has not failed to provide international humanitarian assistance in cases of major disasters and continues to donate food and medicines to those who need them, and will continue to do so. But we can do much more with the commitment of all Member States. With our resolve, we can and must strengthen humanitarian cooperation by supporting the most vulnerable in the face of the disasters of our times.

The pandemic is also at the center of regional efforts to deal with the unprecedented humanitarian challenge of assisting more than 5 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Latin America. Brazil has just assumed the presidency of the Quito Process, a regional technical initiative that allows for coordination and exchange of best practices among countries hosting Venezuelan migrants and refugees. In a context of exacerbated humanitarian needs, it is key to continue to shed light on the second largest displacement crisis in the world, and on the solidarity and dedication with which countries and societies in the region are responding to it.

Finally, as a member of the Security Council elected for the 2022-2023 mandate, Brazil will strive to deliver on the commitments announced during the electoral process, including a focus on prevention, through mediation and peacebuilding, and on protection of civilians, through the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law and effective humanitarian responses, firmly grounded on humanitarian principles.