



BRAZIL

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Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
Development

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Statement by

H. E. Mr. Ricardo Paes de Barros

President of the National Commission for Population and Development

(check against delivery)

Thank you Mr. President,

The Delegation of Brazil takes this opportunity to congratulate you on your election and to welcome and express our deep appreciation for the supporting documentation provided by the Secretary-General.

The SG's reports reveal that Member States have made considerable progress in implementing the ICPD Program of Action. We have significantly reduced poverty and improved access to and the quality of health and education services. Since the Cairo Conference, reproductive rights have been realized all over the world. And the outcome documents of the regional conferences have recognized that - from the perspective of population and development - evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education is one of the paths to progress.

On that basis, Brazil has covered a lot of ground. The percentage of the Brazilian population below the extreme poverty line is today only one-third of what it was when the ICPD took place. Per capita income of the Brazilian poorest 10% increased almost four times faster than that of the richest 10%, leading to an unprecedented decline in inequality within the country. Labor conditions have tremendously improved; and average unemployment on a yearly basis now hovers around the 5% mark, one of the world's lowest, notwithstanding the economic and financial crisis of 2008 the major economies are still recovering from. Average labor income is now 60% higher than it was twenty years ago. Life expectancy is almost 10 years longer, and the infant mortality rate is only a quarter of that in 1994. Today less than 1% of Brazilian municipalities have a very low Human Development Index, compared to 85% in the early 1990s.

Many challenges lie ahead. Maternal mortality levels and unwanted adolescent pregnancy need to decline more rapidly. Youth unemployment rates, as well as school drop-out need to be further reduced. The country faces persistent gender gaps and asymmetries at home, socially and in the labor market, including the private sector, as well as large and resilient racial differentials in opportunities and outcomes. This is where Government programs such as Pronatec (National Program for Access to Technical Education and Employment), Bolsa Família, Science Without Borders and many others have been brought into play, in order to revert a historic negative trend resulting from years of insufficient attention to the marginalized and vulnerable groups, the needy and less fortunate.

In fact, the world is still plagued with unacceptable levels of inequality, aggravated by many forms of discrimination. Progress in realizing fundamental human rights – such as sexual rights, comprehensive sexuality education, the right not to be discriminated against based on color, gender, age, civil status, gender identity and sexual orientation, the respect for diversity, and the full protection of the rights of all migrants – has been slow and fragmented.

We are hopeful that a global consensus of the UN on a new vision for Sustainable Development, based on the Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future we Want", will bring the international community closer to cooperating effectively to overcome these critical hurdles. The set of 17 goals and 169 targets adopted by the Open Working Group on the SDGs provide an integrated platform for this new vision. They are a groundbreaking outcome we wish to preserve as the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be

adopted a year from now. We value the social and human rights dimensions of the set of goals and targets, ranging from poverty eradication to combating inequality under a framework of economic growth, inclusiveness and sustainability. An agenda meant to be universal in nature while recognizing the common but differentiated responsibility of developed and developing countries. We now need to concentrate on ensuring that the means of implementation are clearly identified and measure up to our high ambitions, both in terms of ODA commitments, policy space for developing countries, and national and international mobilization of resources and technology. We will have to focus on adequate and effective indicators, with the assistance of the UN, competent national entities of Member States, and relevant civil society groups.

Mr. President,

Realizing rights entails promoting equality and equity within and among countries; securing respect for diversity, improving education, work conditions and opportunities for all. Development also requires worldwide synergy and global leadership from the UN. This is where we need to reaffirm unambiguously that the right to development is a fundamental human right, universal and inalienable.

If we are serious about population and development, and I believe we are, these are our main endeavors. In this spirit, allow me, Mr. President, to reaffirm Brazil's full commitment to the Montevideo Consensus (the outcome document of our regional conference), the ICPD Program of Action, to the key actions for its further implementation, to the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General.

Thank you.

