

Summit for Democracy (December 9-10, 2021)

## **Voluntary Commitments by Brazil**

Brazil maintains an unwavering commitment to democracy and the rule of law. The Federal Constitution establishes human dignity and democracy as the foundational principles of the Brazilian Republic. Since its adoption in 1988, the Constitution has been the central pillar for supporting democracy, ensuring the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and fostering a culture of dialogue, tolerance, and peace.

Brazil has a comprehensive legal framework that protects freedom of thought, freedom of association and freedom of expression, including in the Internet - all of which are essential to a healthy and well-functioning democracy. Brazil prizes its diverse, plural, and dynamic political environment, in which different groupings from across the ideological spectrum have the right and the means to express themselves and to be heard.

Over the last few years, there has been notable progress in promoting and protecting human rights in Brazil. Nevertheless, the Brazilian Government recognizes the need to address significant challenges in order to fulfil our potential and meet the legitimate expectations of the Brazilian population. Brazil takes this opportunity to reaffirm its determination to protect and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, regardless of origin, race, sex, color, age, religion or other characteristics, without any discrimination.

The decision by the current administration to establish the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights is a testimony to Brazil's commitment to human rights. The protection of human rights is an inherent value of Brazilian democracy that underpins the implementation of all public policies and programs.

Fighting corruption is another priority for Brazil. The Brazilian Government has adopted a National Anticorruption Plan for the period of 2020-2025 and is committed to upholding a more transparent and accountable public administration, through cross-cutting policies aimed at promoting public integrity in federal agencies and other public bodies. Brazil has established a Public Integrity System with the purpose of strengthening mechanisms for preventing, detecting, sanctioning, and remediating acts of fraud, corruption, and unethical behavior.

Brazil considers that the following pledges shall contribute to uphold democracy, advance universal human rights and fight corruption in the country, in line with existing national and international commitments and obligations:

## **Strengthening Democracy**

- **Ensure free and fair elections:** For over 30 years, Brazil has held regular elections at Federal, state, and municipal levels. The Government remains committed to strengthening electoral and political institutions and processes, in order to guarantee the right and opportunity of all citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs in the country.
- **Increase the participation of women in politics:** The number of women in Congress is expanding significantly after the last general election in Brazil.
- **Safeguard freedom of expression:** Freedom of debate and exchange of ideas and opinions is crucial for democracy to prosper. While recognizing the challenges related to the proliferation of disinformation, especially by a large share of traditional media, the Brazilian Government will continue to safeguard the freedom of expression, including in the Internet, in accordance with national law and international standards.
- **Guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, as an integral part of public engagement in democratic life:** In a democracy, people should be able to exercise their rights of peaceful assembly and association. The Brazilian Government is determined to ensure the right to freedom of assembly and association in the country, as already assured by our Federal Constitution.
- **Ensure that the Internet remains a platform for democratic dialogue and debate:** As a rule, Brazil considers that the same rights protected off-line should also be protected on-line. The Brazilian Government will continue to support and promote initiatives that contribute to build trust in the Internet, while protecting the right to privacy and safeguarding personal information.
- **Engage in initiatives, at the regional and international levels, aimed at fostering respect for the rule of law and for democratic principles globally:** International dialogue and cooperation can play an important role in defending against authoritarianism and safeguarding democracies. It is important to exchange views and best practices with other countries in order to address common challenges.

## Advancing Human Rights

- Continue to protect the right to life, liberty, and personal safety: The right to life, especially of unborn children, liberty and personal safety underpins the democratic rule of law. The Government recognizes life as a foundational value of Brazilian society and remains determined to protect bodily integrity and personal autonomy, including through measures to combat violent crime, repress torture and ensure due process of law.
- Strengthen initiatives to promote social inclusion, alleviate hunger and foster human development: Brazil implements comprehensive public policies and programs to support people in situations of social vulnerability, with a view to realizing their economic, social, and cultural rights. The Brazilian Government commits to adopt additional measures, as needed, to promote social inclusion, reduce unemployment and combat inequality, in order to foster better standards of living and increase well-being.
- Step up actions to protect the rights of groups and people in situations of vulnerability: Brazil implements targeted social and human rights programs aimed at protecting the rights of persons in situations of vulnerability, including minorities, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth and older persons. We are committed to strengthening measures to promote and respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination and to combat all forms of violence.
- Take additional measures to guarantee and promote the human rights of women: The Brazilian Constitution establishes that men and women are equal in rights and obligations. Nevertheless, women still face significant challenges at home, in the workplace and in other contexts. In this regard, the Government undertakes to implement programmes and initiatives aimed at fighting discrimination and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, especially femicide, sexual abuse and harassment.
- Protect the rights of indigenous peoples, in line with Brazil's international commitments: Brazil implements comprehensive public policies in health, education, social security, among others, aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of indigenous people. The Government is committed to fostering the economic empowerment of indigenous populations, especially women, and to improving their access to essential public services while respecting their cultures and traditions.
- Redouble efforts to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including anti-Semitism: Brazil has a robust legal framework to prevent

and combat racism, ethnic, religious and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. However, there are important challenges in ensuring compliance and implementation. In this regard, the Brazilian Government undertakes to redouble efforts to ensure the full respect for the legislation and commitments in fighting racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

- Adopt and implement measures to strengthen and protect families: As the basis of society, families enjoy special protection under the Brazilian Constitution. Brazil considers it important to implement crosscutting public policies to strengthen family ties, based on a human rights perspective. The Government is committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen family structure, promote adequate family-work balance and address inequalities, with special consideration to the sociocultural and economic circumstances of families in situations of vulnerability.

## **Fighting corruption**

- Continue to advance comprehensive national policies and measures aimed at fighting corruption and bribery: Brazil has a robust national framework of anti-corruption policies, action plans, institutional coordination strategies and capacity-building initiatives. The Government remains committed to advancing comprehensive national policies and measures to promote a widespread culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability in both the public and private sectors.
- Foster cooperation between national anti-corruption authorities, civil society and domestic human rights institutions: Brazil reinforces its democratic tradition by fostering the participation of government officials and civil society, including human rights organizations, in the public decision-making process. We are committed to further advancing policies that promote an open and inclusive government, based on the principles of transparency, democracy, civic engagement and participation.
- Take steps to promote transparency, accountability, and access to public information: Brazil has robust and comprehensive mechanisms in place to promote public transparency, accountability and facilitate access to information, such as the Access to Information Act and the Transparency Act. The Government is committed to ensuring that these tools remain effective and up to date.
- Promote the use of new technologies to prevent, detect and investigate corruption: Brazilian authorities have been taking advantage of new digital resources and technological innovations to increase public transparency, to offer easily accessible reporting channels and to facilitate civic participation and access to public information. We are committed to further promoting the use of innovative

technologies to improve the ability to prevent, detect and counter corruption, as envisaged by the Anticorruption Act and the National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering, among others.

- Promote the domestic implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and other relevant bilateral, regional, and international instruments: We recognize the importance of international and regional organizations and forums dedicated to combat corruption and foster international cooperation. The Government is committed to effectively implementing the international anti-corruption conventions and commitments to which Brazil has adhered.