



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Chemin Camille-Vidart, 15 – 1202 – Genève*

**Human Rights Council
EMRIP
14th session
Country Engagement**

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank EMRIP for convening the current country engagement meeting. This is the fourth time we have had the opportunity to exchange views with EMRIP members about the situation of indigenous peoples in Brazil, since the outset the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also pleased to discuss with COIAB issues of concern regarding indigenous rights in the country.

First, I would like to express my condolences to the family and relations of the victims of COVID-19. Please accept my solidarity and my prayers. (10 sec silence)

During the current session, I will focus on three main issues: participation; health and vaccination; and protection.

During the pandemic, the Brazilian Government has taken additional steps to ensure due participation of indigenous peoples in policy decisions that affect them. Since August 2020, when the initial national plan to address

COVID-19 infections among Brazilian indigenous peoples was elaborated, indigenous peoples were consulted, in an inclusive and participatory manner. Now in its fourth edition, the plan has incorporated many of the indigenous representative's proposals.

Likewise, the Ministry of Health adopted accountability measures under the Indigenous Health Care Sub-system (SasiSUS). Local and District Indigenous Health Councils, besides a Forum of Presidents of Health District Councils. Were established to act as a permanent collegiate body, in order to monitor the implementation of indigenous health initiatives. All actions concerning COVID-19, including vaccination, are planned and monitored within the scope of District Crisis Committees, with the participation of indigenous representatives from the district indigenous health councils.

Brazil fully complies with WHO and PAHO directives on COVID-19 transmission control among indigenous peoples. The vaccination of indigenous peoples is a key national priority in the fight against COVID-19. As we speak, about 84% of the 408.000 indigenous persons above 18 years old who reside in indigenous lands have been vaccinated with the first dose and 75% with the second dose against COVID-19, compared with 40% and 15% respectively for the general population. The Ministry of Health, together with state and municipal authorities, is organizing the vaccination of the indigenous population that resides outside indigenous lands, in cities and towns across the country, to guarantee that they are also given priority in their vaccination plans.

In the field of territorial protection, the government has established a dedicated body to set up and supervise a sanitary barriers plan for the

protection of isolated indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples of recent contact. The Ethnic-Environmental Protection Bases (BAPes) in the Amazon were enhanced, created or re-activated, under the umbrella of FUNAI. They help to control the access to indigenous lands, serve as quarantine center for FUNAI and SESAI workers and give support for operations against illegal activities, such as mining and logging.

Repressive actions against illegal activities in indigenous lands had been suspended by the Supreme Court since August 2020, to avoid COVID-19 contamination. Nevertheless, recent circumstances called for specific responses, which have resulted in three field operations, coordinated by the Federal Police, in cooperation with the National Force, the Air Force, the Army, FUNAI, IBAMA and ICMBio, besides local forces.

The "Integrated and Safe Environment" program, which aims to watch criminal actions and environmental disasters, recently adopted a high-end satellite technology. It allows an efficient surveillance of Brazil's territory and an efficient action planning.

In the aftermath of unfortunate events in the Munduruku land, the Federal Police led operation Mundurukânia in May 2021 to repress violent acts from illegal miners against local leaders. A second phase has taken place since June. Equipment and camps used by illegal miners were destroyed, evidence was collected and suspects were arrested.

In response to the tragic events in the Yanomami land, the Federal Police led operation Palimiú 1, which dismantled five mining areas and destroyed their equipment and tools.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

A new and more ambitious action, called Operation Omama, is in progress in the Yanomami land since the end of June. It aims to apprehend and destroy equipment, aircraft and supplies used by the illegal miners and to expel them from indigenous lands.

It should be noted that many of the measures adopted to fight COVID-19 have long-lasting effects, such as the expanded ethnic-environmental protection bases network and the indigenous health councils.

Lastly, the Brazilian government remains committed to the protection of indigenous peoples rights, in accordance with the principles embedded in our Constitution and the international instruments to which are party.

Thank you.