



**Statement of Amb. Tovar da Silva Nunes,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva,
during the Annual Panel on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
48th Session of the Human Rights Council**

Madam President,

Brazil thanks the panelists for their presentations.

We pay tribute to all those who lost their lives to COVID-19, especially in indigenous communities worldwide.

Our Federal Constitution embodies the fundamental human rights principles, contained in the main international human rights instruments. Since its adoption in 1988, indigenous peoples have enjoyed the same political rights as any other Brazilian citizen, including with regards to self-determination.

The Brazilian government has endeavored to ensure the due participation of indigenous peoples in health policy decisions that affect them. From the outset of the pandemic,

indigenous peoples played a role in the elaboration of the National Plan to Fight COVID-19 in Indigenous Lands and the National Plan of Sanitary Barriers for Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples.

Local and district indigenous health councils, together with the Forum of Health Council Presidents were mandated to monitor the implementation of COVID-19 initiatives. Furthermore, indigenous representatives were designated to participate in the COVID-19 crisis committees of the 34 indigenous health districts.

Indigenous health workers play an important role in fighting and preventing covid-19 at the sanitary barriers created to control entry and ensure observation of quarantine requirements for visitors to indigenous lands. Indigenous people comprise over 30% of the workforce in the indigenous health districts, where they provide valuable support.

Brazil reaffirms its commitment to the protection of all human rights, especially of the indigenous peoples during the covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you.