

SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD2) – BRAZIL'S INTERVENTION Wellington Dias, Minister of State for Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger

Madam President, Excellencies,

I thank the Government of Qatar and welcome the Doha Political Declaration, which updates Copenhagen around eradicating poverty, achieving full employment, and promoting social integration. We reaffirm multilateralism, the UN Charter, and the role of the Commission for Social Development in monitoring and implementation.

President Lula reminds us: hunger is not a natural phenomenon; it is a political choice. In July, Brazil once again exited the Hunger Map. Since 2023, we have lifted 24.4 million people out of hunger and 7.6 million out of poverty—the result of evidence-based policies and President Lula's decision to include the poor in the budget.

We have expanded universal, non-contributory social protection and linked food security with production, public procurement from small producers, and access to adequate food. Alongside protection and production, we have opened pathways to work and income: while Bolsa Família preserves human dignity, the Acredita Program unlocks credit, guarantees, and support for employment and entrepreneurship; and in education, Pé-de-meia creates student savings to keep young people in school and facilitate their first job.

Equality is economic policy and combating discrimination: we have approved equal pay for equal work between men and women; we have structured care policies as social infrastructure and confronted discrimination and violence, with special attention to women, children, Black and Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

But I don't want to speak only about Brazil. Yesterday, here in Doha, we held the first Leaders' Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. In one year, the Alliance has surpassed 200 members and consolidated a new model of cooperation: countries lead with their own programs and partners align in a coordinated manner.

In just a few months, this model has mobilized more than 85 expressions of interest for nine national plans and opened the way for new rounds. The impact goes beyond the initial wave: the Alliance has put the fight against hunger and poverty back at the center, and countries are strengthening their programs, generating economic inclusion and jobs—as in Brazil's example.

But to address inequalities, tax justice will be essential: progressive systems, combating illicit flows, and holding the very wealthy accountable—they too must contribute. We advocate for strengthening tax cooperation at the UN and advancing toward a global framework.

Sovereignty, self-determination, and peace are conditions for sustainable social policies. Conflicts and unilateral economic measures, incompatible with international law, weaken protection networks and food security. We reiterate respect for the UN Charter and the self-determination of peoples—including in Palestine and in our Latin America.

Social inclusion also requires decent work and labor rights. Brazil supports the ILO's Global Coalition for Social Justice and advocates for a Convention on decent work in the platform economy, guaranteeing rights for app workers.

Demographic transitions require resuming implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. We invite Global South countries to join the Friends of Population and Development Group we are creating with friendly nations. Brazil will also propose that the Human Rights Council address the homeless population, guiding integrated policies on housing, health, work, and food.

Health is key to social justice: Brazil worked for the Pandemic Agreement at WHO, launched the Alliance for local production of inputs and vaccine innovation, and defends universal coverage and the elimination of social, economic, and environmental determinants of disease.

Finally, we cannot continue separating the environmental from the social. We have gestated in the Board of Champions of the Alliance a Declaration on Hunger, Poverty and Human-Centered Climate Action, which will be adopted by Heads of State this Friday at COP30 in Belém, in my country.

The declaration will make clear that the worst impacts of climate change fall on the poorest and most vulnerable, and that a just climate transition must protect their rights, strengthen their resilience, and guarantee human dignity. I invite all Countries represented here to endorse this Declaration this week, so as to participate in its adoption.

Madam President,

The Doha Declaration is right on the central elements. On financing, it is time to transform the Seville Commitment into budget: reverse the decline in development aid, apply climate finance to human beings, prioritize the social, and offer swift and just solutions for the debt of the poorest. On governance, strengthen the Commission for Social Development, adopt metrics beyond GDP, and make the UN more inclusive and representative, articulated with international financial institutions.

I conclude with a simple conviction: combating hunger and poverty and promoting social development is a government duty, not charity. National budgets must prioritize the poorest; international cooperation—including tax, financial, and climate cooperation—must open the necessary fiscal space. If politics is choice, we choose, together, to eradicate hunger, achieve full employment, and integrate our societies with dignity.

Thank you very much.