

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, JAIR BOLSONARO,
AT THE OPENING OF THE 75TH UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres, whom I am pleased to address in our mother-tongue;

Heads of state, government, and delegation;

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to open this Assembly with representatives of sovereign nations, at a moment when the world needs the truth to overcome its challenges.

Covid-19 has become the center of attention throughout this year, and, firstly, I would like to lament each death that has taken place.

Since the beginning, I have warned that we had two problems to solve in my country: the virus and unemployment, and that both should be treated simultaneously and with the same responsibility.

Due to a judicial ruling, all measures of isolation and restriction of freedom were delegated to each of the 27 governors of the federative units. The President was in charge of allotting resources and means for the entire country.

As has happened in a large portion of the world, a part of the Brazilian press also politicized the virus, spreading panic among the population. Under the motto “stay home” and “we’ll deal with the economy later,” they almost brought social chaos to the country.

Our government dashingly implemented several economic measures that prevented disaster:

- Granted emergency aid in installments valued at approximately US\$ 1 thousand to 65 million people, the largest program of assistance to the poor in Brazil and perhaps one of the largest in the world;

- Allotted over US\$ 1 billion for health, aid to small and micro enterprises, as well as compensating the states’ and municipalities’ loss in tax collection;

- Assisted over 200 thousand indigenous families with food and prevention of Covid;

- Stimulated, obliging health practitioners, the early treatment of the disease;

- Allotted US\$ 400 billion for research, development, and production of the Oxford vaccine in Brazil;

* Transcription of the speech given by the President of the Republic of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, at the opening of the 75th United Nations General Assembly on September 22, 2020.

Hospitals were not short of means to care for Covid patients.

The pandemic leaves us the great lesson that we cannot depend only on a few nations for the production of inputs and means essential to our survival. The input for the production of hydroxychloroquine alone was readjusted in 500% at the beginning of the pandemic. To that end, Brazil is open for the development of cutting-edge technology and innovation, such as industry 4.0, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and the 5G technology, with any partners who respect our sovereignty and care for freedom and data protection.

In Brazil, despite the global crisis, rural production did not stop. The men in the field worked harder than ever and produced, as always, food for over 1 billion people.

Brazil contributed so that the world would continue being fed.

Our transport in trucks, sea, port, and air maintained the entire logistic flow for internal distribution and exportation.

Our agribusiness is still strong, and, above all, has and respects the best environmental legislation in the planet.

Still, we are victims of one of the most brutal misinformation campaigns regarding the Amazon and the Pantanal.

The Brazilian Amazon is known to be extremely wealthy. This explains the support of

international institutions to this campaign based on vested interests that unite with Brazilian associations, profiteering and unpatriotic, with the goal of harming the government and Brazil itself.

We are leaders in the conservation of tropical forests. We have the cleanest and most diversified energy matrix in the world.

Despite being one of the 10 largest economies in the world, we are responsible for a mere 3% of the carbon emissions.

We ensure food security to a sixth of the world population, even while preserving 66% of our native vegetation and using only 27% of our territory for agriculture and raising livestock. Numbers no other country can match.

Brazil rises as the world's largest food producer.

That is why there is so much interest in spreading misinformation on our environment.

We are open to the world in the best thing we have to offer, our products of the fields. We have never exported as much as we do now. The world is increasingly dependent on Brazil to feed itself.

Our forest is humid and does not allow for the spread of fire within itself. The fires are practically always in the same places, on the western edge of the Forest, where the *caboclo* and the indigenous burn their crops seeking their survival, in areas already deforested.

Criminal fires are fought with rigor and determination. I maintain my zero tolerance policy regarding environmental crime. Together with the National Congress, we seek the land regulation, aiming to identify the authors of these crimes.

I remind you that the Amazon region is larger than the entirety of Western Europe. Hence the difficulty in fighting not only the fires but also illegal logging and biopiracy. That is why we are broadening and improving the use of technology and enhancing inter-agency operations, including with the participation of the Armed Forces.

Our Pantanal, with an area larger than many European countries, just like California, suffers with the same problems. The large fires are inevitable consequences of the local high temperatures, combined with the accumulation of decomposing organic matter.

Our concern with the environment goes beyond our forests. Our National Program to Combat Marine Litter, one of the first to be launched in the world, creates a strategy for our 8,5 thousand kilometers of coast.

Along these lines, Brazil made efforts, during the COP25, in Madrid, to regulate the articles of the Paris Agreement that would allow for the effective establishment of the international carbon market. Unfortunately, we were beaten by protectionism.

In 2019, Brazil was the victim of a criminal Venezuelan oil spill, sold with no control, which incurred in severe harm to the environment and serious losses in the activities of fishing and tourism.

Brazil deems it important to respect the freedom of navigation established in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

However, the rules of environmental protection must be respected, and crimes must be investigated quickly, so that aggressions such as the one against Brazil do not befall other countries.

It is not only in environmental preservation that the country is a leader. In the humanitarian and human rights field, Brazil has become an international reference due to its commitment and dedication in the support given to the Venezuelan refugees arriving in the country through the border in the state of Roraima.

Operation Shelter, headed by the Ministry of Defense, has taken in almost 400 thousand Venezuelans displaced due to the serious political and economic crisis generated by the Bolivarian dictatorship.

With the participation of over 4 thousand military personnel, the Humanitarian and Logistic Task Force seeks to welcome, shelter and internalize the families arriving at the border.

As a founding member of the UN, Brazil is committed to the base principles of the Charter

of the United Nations: international peace and security, cooperation among the nations, respect to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all. In this moment when the organization completes 75 years in existence, we have the opportunity to renew our commitment and fidelity to those ideals. Peace cannot be dissociated from security.

Cooperation among the peoples cannot be dissociated from freedom. Brazil has the principles of peace, cooperation, and prevalence of the human rights inscribed in its own Constitution, and it traditionally contributes, in practice, to the achievement of these objectives.

Brazil has participated in over 50 peace-keeping operations and similar missions, having contributed with over 55 thousand military, police, and civilian personnel, with prominent roles in Suez, Angola, East Timor, Haiti, Lebanon, and Congo.

Brazil has had two female members of the military win UN awards in the Mission in the Central African Republic for their work against sexual violence.

We remain committed to the conclusion of the trade agreements established between MERCOSUR and the European Union and with the European Free Trade Association. These agreements include important clauses that reinforce our commitment to environmental protection.

During my government, Brazil is finally abandoning a protectionist tradition and now sees commercial openness as the indispensable tool for growth and transformation.

I restate our support to the reform of the World Trade Organization, which must discipline in accordance with the new international realities.

We are equally close to the beginning of the official process of Brazil's accession to the OECD. Thus, we have adopted the highest levels of global practices in all areas, from financial regulation to the domains of digital security and environmental protection.

During my first year of government, we concluded the Welfare reform, and, recently, presented two new reforms to the National Congress: that of the tax system and the administrative one.

New regulatory frameworks in key sectors, such as sanitation and natural gas, are also being implemented. They will attract new investments, stimulate the economy, and generate income and employment.

Brazil was, in 2019, the fourth most popular destination for direct investment in the world. And, in the first semester of 2020, despite the pandemic, we have seen an increase in incoming investments, in comparison to the same period in the last year. This proves the world's confidence in our government.

Brazil has been working to, in coordination with its South Atlantic partners, revitalize the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone.

Brazil is concerned with and condemns terrorism all around the world.

In Latin America, we continue working towards the preservation and promotion of democratic order as an indispensable basis for the economic progress we seek.

Freedom is humanity's greatest good.

I appeal to the entire international community for religious freedom and for the fight against Christophobia.

I would also like to reaffirm my solidarity and support to the people of Lebanon due to the recent adversities they have faced.

We believe this to be an opportune time to work towards the opening of new horizons, much more optimistic ones for the future of the Middle East.

The peace agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, and between Israel and Bahrain, three countries friendly to Brazil, with which we have immensely broadened our relations during my government, are excellent news.

Brazil also commends the Peace to Prosperity Plan launched by President Donald Trump, with a promising view to, after seven decades of efforts, retake the path of the much-desired solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Brazil's new policy of simultaneous rapprochement with Israel and the Arab countries converges with these initiatives, which finally light the flame of hope for the region.

Brazil is a Christian, conservative country, with the family as its basis.

God bless you all!

And my thank you very much!

