

## **TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL**

**(Mr Chioro dos Reis) Third plenary meeting, 19 May**

**Agenda item 3: Address by the Director-General**

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Mr CHIORO DOS REIS (Brazil):

Mr President, Madame Director-General, colleagues, ministers of health, ladies and gentlemen. I congratulate the World Health Organization for choosing “climate and health” as the theme for this Health Assembly, which will foster cooperation and harmonize actions between governments, international organizations and the United Nations system.

Brazil is committed to the promotion of sustainable development. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), we reaffirmed the commitments for poverty eradication and to overcome the huge inequalities in the world.

We have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Bearing this in mind, in 2013 we launched the Health Sector Plan on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.

Climate change is also reflected in the life of our communities through natural disasters and catastrophes. We have responded with the creation of the National Health System Force to reduce the impact on affected populations.

We need to deal with the serious threats to health, as observed with climate change, that affect developing countries, such as the distribution of vectors of dengue, malaria, cholera, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases.

Eradicating poverty is certainly the highest priority of the government of President Dilma Rousseff. Poverty eradication is possible and it has been a fast, ongoing process that we have been witnessing in our country for the past 12 years.

It is our understanding that real growth is one that occurs in a sustainable manner, with a fair distribution of wealth, capable of promoting social inclusion, the protection of the environment, the reduction of inequalities and the improvement of the quality of life and health for all.

In the last 25 years, Brazil has been building its Unified Health System, which is public and free of charge. Some of its priorities are expanding and qualifying primary health

care, ensuring universal access to medicines, and promoting the constitution of networks of integrated health services with surveillance and protection measures, among other strategic actions which have enabled significant progress in different health indicators, such as reduction of child mortality and increase in life expectancy.

In order to guarantee primary health care to all Brazilians, President Dilma Rousseff has courageously undertaken the challenge of implementing a national policy for regulation, retention and training of health professionals, through the programme “More Physicians for Brazil”.

In this manner, we were able to complete and expand the family health teams, ensuring that more than 14 000 doctors, both from Brazil and abroad, are present in the most remote and poorest areas of Brazil. Such efforts have enabled 49 million people to have access to qualified primary health care.

In addition to the emergency provision of physicians, we are increasing the number of vacancies for medical residency and for graduation in medicine, which are structuring measures for qualification, in the medium- and long-term, of our health system.

It is with satisfaction that we see the inclusion of the Recife Declaration on Human Resources in the agenda of this Health Assembly.

We are determined to ensure that health is adequately reflected in the post-2015 development agenda and in the sustainable development goals.

To this end, it is fundamental to meet outstanding targets and tackle new challenges, such as violence in its different forms, mental health and the abuse of alcohol and other drugs – always under a prevention and health care perspective.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we believe that health is a precondition and a result of sustainable development.

Before concluding, on behalf of President Dilma Rousseff, I would like to invite you all to come to Brazil for the World Cup. We are ready to safely and happily receive you for what will be the Cup of World Cups with warmth and happiness in a friendly and safe environment. A great popular event that celebrates peace, respects diversity, rejects all forms of racism and intolerance, and affirms friendship and respect among all peoples.

Finally, I would like to emphatically reaffirm that, for Brazil, health is a social right that cannot be subordinated to market forces. Health is therefore a citizen's right and a duty of the State.

I am convinced, and this is enshrined in our Federal Constitution, that only universal health systems, based on ethical and political commitments to protect life, which enable health care based on the principles of integrality and equity, will allow us to overcome global and national dilemmas, which challenge our present and menace our future.

Thank you.