

TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL

(Mr Barros) Third plenary meeting, 23 May

Agenda item 3: Address by Address by Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General

Mr BARROS (Brazil):

Mr President, Madam Director-General, ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to attend the sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, in the year that the 2030 Agenda requires us to reaffirm the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

The challenges to achieve the goals of this Agenda are huge. Evidence shows the benefits of integrated cross-sectoral policies, particularly in tackling Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases and their risk factors.

We know that encouraging healthy diets and lifestyles is key. We need innovative actions in this field to increase the effectiveness of prevention and health promotion. To this end, I have just made a commitment that all food offered in events held by federal public institutions must be healthy.

We are also engaged in the development and implementation of cross-sectoral policies, especially to address the problems related to road accidents and violence, as well as in preparing the health system for the aging of our population.

I would like to point out that today we are a country 100% free of tobacco smoke in public spaces and fully restrict the advertising of tobacco products. In just five years, we have cut the prevalence of tobacco smoking in Brazil by 20%.

I should draw attention to the unprecedented feat of the World Health Organization in addressing, in a synergistic and coordinated manner, HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the 2016–2021 Global Strategy.

Regarding HIV/AIDS, it is our firm intention to support and strengthen the High-Level Policy Declaration of the 2016 UN General Assembly, which should accelerate the end of the AIDS epidemic. Brazil supports the change in the response to the epidemic, towards a comprehensive health care approach, policies for key populations and sexual and reproductive education. Access to treatment remains a pillar of the Brazilian response.

In this Assembly, we shall adopt the first Global Strategy against Viral Hepatitis. In Brazil, we face some challenges, such as achieving universal access to diagnosis and treatment, especially for hepatitis C. We have made efforts to negotiate prices jointly with other countries in South America, with support from PAHO/WHO.

Mr President,

We recognize the role played by PAHO and WHO in joint efforts with Brazil in response to the Zika virus, a public health emergency that already affects 60 countries and territories, exposing 1.3 billion people to the disease, of which 15%

are Brazilians.

In the coming days we will have opportunities to discuss and continue sharing information on the response to this emergency.

In Brazil, we have implemented integrated actions, such as strengthening of health surveillance and encouraging the development of new technologies for vector control, such as infection of the vector mosquito by the Wolbachia bacteria. In addition, we provide comprehensive care to children with microcephaly and will follow the children who may have other neurological, eye and hearing complications resulting from this infection.

I conclude by highlighting the information presented in this graph, showing the low transmission rate of dengue and other diseases transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* in Brazil in the period when the Olympic and Paralympic Games are to be held. In addition, we have taken specific vector control measures, allowing me to reaffirm that the Olympic Games will take place safely for the entire Olympic Family and all visitors. We hope to welcome you with great enthusiasm in Rio de Janeiro.