



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva*

Distinguished Director-General,

Member States representatives,

Firstly, we would like to join others in expressing our solidarity to the people of Tonga.

Brazil thanks the DG for presenting its report, and the work of the entire WHO staff for a healthier world.

Despite efforts by WHO and Member States, we continue to struggle with COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought health inequalities into sharp focus. Brazil is proud of having undertaken one of the swiftest and far-reaching immunization campaigns, while also contributing to global vaccination targets, through the donation of over 5 million doses, both bilaterally and through COVAX Facility.

Brazil is fully engaged in the work to strengthen WHO and to revamp it in order to be better prepared for future health emergencies. This work should include identifying potential efficiency gains and encouraging donors to use non-earmarked contributions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly disrupted health systems everywhere, with negative impacts in several health programmes. We place great value in the support WHO can give to Member States in this area, specially through its normative role. We thank the work to keep monitoring the progress towards the triple billion and, thus, to the health-related SDGs.

In our view, more impact in countries can only be achieved through close coordination with, and support to national health authorities. The strengthening of national offices is instrumental for that objective, with particular focus on strengthening national health systems and on promoting more equitable access to health services.

Thank you.