



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

142nd Executive Board of the World Health Organization

Brazil's statement for agenda item 2

Dialogue with the Director-General

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Tedros, Members of the Board and colleagues,

Let me start by wishing a healthier year for WHO's health work in the field.

I also thank the Director-General for the review made on the past first months of his tenure, and for the thought-provoking comments and proposals for the future of WHO.

Your first six months in charge have projected a reenergized leadership for the organization. You put together a sharp team and made an earnest effort to engage members and other stakeholders in setting a strategic vision adapted to current challenges.

To respond to your call, Mr. Chairman, and to the winds of change, and in a spirit of an interactive exercise, I would like to invite Dr Tedros to comment on the following issues:

- On “putting countries at the center” (a concept, by the way, with which we generally agree) but it still raises some concerns as to which measures will be taken to avoid the risk that an emphasis on a more operational WHO ends up resulting in a less coherent organization or increased fragmentation in terms of resource allocation?
- On “emergencies”, I know your team is very mobilized on this front. And I commend you and your team for that. Fighting emergencies before they happen is one of your objectives – prevention, not only response. Along this line, could you elaborate on how could WHO



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help mainstream the social determinants of health into initiatives linked to prevention and response? How will WHO deal with the root causes that most of the time are behind health emergencies?

- “Universal health coverage” seems to be the most challenging of all health challenges, specially in a world where populations grow and people live long lives. How do we reconcile a truly universal health coverage with the existing financial hardships in all countries (poor and rich) to cope with rising prices for medicines? As I said, this is not a challenge for developing countries, like Brazil, Kenya and Rwanda (to mention a few). UHC is also a challenge for some large donors of this organization. What role is there for a transformed WHO?
- “WHO transformation”, which mechanisms could be put in place to make funding and priorities better aligned, taking into account that voluntary contributions correspond to more than 80% of WHO’s budget?

Thank you.
