

TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL

(Mr Chioro) Third plenary meeting, 18 May

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

Mr CHIORO (Brazil):

Mister President, Madam Director-General, colleagues, ministers of health, ladies and gentlemen.

I will speak in Portuguese. The theme of this Assembly “Resilient Health Systems” invites us to look to strengthen our capacity to respond to the challenges posed by emergencies and catastrophes. We are experiencing important changes in the global scenario, amongst them, the epidemiological, demographic, nutritional, social and economic transitions, that impact directly on the health conditions of the populations, This scenario demands response capacity from the health systems.

In Brazil, universal health and education public policies, combined with social and economic measures, have taken over 42 million Brazilians from poverty, and over 22 million from extreme poverty. Besides, with the “More Medical Doctors Program”, structured in partnership with PAHO, WHO and exchanging experiences many countries, we have guaranteed effective access to primary care to 63 million Brazilians, improving health service infrastructure and the restructuring and expansion of medical courses. These are bold measures, with the State taking to itself the regulation of the workforce, previously market oriented.

Thus, we reinforce the commitment to strengthen and guarantee a national public health system, universal, gratuitous, equitable and with quality, defending the universal access to health as a right, seeking technological innovation in the perspective of attention of the population’s needs and grating sustainable financing to the system. These are important matters to be faced, especially by developing countries.

The challenges of the Ebola epidemic have demonstrated to the world the importance of well-structured health systems, resilient and with the capacity of promptly responding to emergency situations. Solidarity and cooperation must be landmarks to our governments. We expect from WHO a role that is greater and better, of leadership and coordination in facing crisis.

This way we can perfect our surveillance and response systems, learning from different experiences and making knowledge and capacity of each country available, apart from continuing to work hard in strengthening health systems.

All over the world the fight against chronic diseases, as well as against communicable ones, demands from our governments efforts of integrating agendas, involving different sectors and partners beyond health, optimizing means and resources. In Brazil, social participation is an element of paramount importance. Governance, transparency and protagonist participation of society are priority elements.

We will host, in Brasilia, in November, the Second High-Level WHO Conference on Road Safety. We count on everyone's presence, in order to advance in proposals to overcome challenges such as the growing number of traffic accidents, particularly motorcycle accidents, which have epidemic proportions in many countries.

Mister President,

We propose that, beyond the control and security policies, that the commitment to comprehensive care to mental health and to people that abusively use alcohol and drugs may gain a prime spot in the global agenda. We must strengthen the perspective of care, of social reinsertion and respect to human rights. We renew our commitment to fighting obesity, particularly in children, to guarantee food and nutritional safety as a right, apart from the implementation of policies regarding family planning, sexual and reproductive rights and access to medicines, that must be deepened, with no steps back.

Another strategic agenda, that needs everyone's attention, is the valorisation of natural childbirth, diminishing the amount of unnecessary caesarean sections and improving the access of information to women so that her right to choose may be assured.

Brazil believes in and works for the growing cooperation between countries. We express here our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals not reached yet, and the inclusion of the right to universal access to health in the Sustainable Development Goals, fundamental to the strengthening of our national health systems.

Therefore, we understand that health may effectively contribute, both in each one of our countries and globally, to reduce inequality, to promote a healthier life and the construction of effective citizenship to all people.

Thank you.