Dear Mr Chairman of the WHA,

Mr Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom,

Dear ministers, heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

The Member States of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP for its acronym in Portuguese) do not share only the same language and part of its history and its culture, but we also share the certainty that we can join efforts, so we can face, together, the challenges in health that are common to more than 260 of our fellow citizens.

As the pro tempore president of the CPLP, Brazil has taken the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the beacon for actions that have been developed in many different areas of cooperation and political concertation, including on the health agenda.
Health is a crosscutting component of the 2030 Agenda which is the reason it represents the cornerstone for an efficient promotion of sustainable development. For this reason, it is natural and desirable that health be one of the areas with greater intensity in terms of cooperation with CPLP, which has lead us to advise the Brazilian presidency, on health, for the achievement of concrete and tangible results for our populations.

Sustainable financial initiatives in health is a common challenge, especially for developing countries. Despite that, the cooperation which has been developed within CPLP has demonstrated that the strategy of sharing successful and self-sustainable experiences have ensured the continuity of public policies with significant impacts for areas such as mother-child health, health professionals capacity building and the control of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB.

We embrace the efforts made by WHO's Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, to provide universal health coverage as a priority commitment in our actions. We, the CPLP countries, pay special attention to strengthening our health systems and universal access to quality health care as a means of building capacity and promoting development. It is for this purpose that we instituted, during the Brazilian presidency, the CPLP Network of Human Milk Banks, a pioneering initiative that has effectively contributed to the reduction of infant mortality in several countries around the world. We also promote the deepening of discussions in Telehealth and Telemedicine, areas with great potential to expand access to health in the member states of the Community.

Mr. President,
The language that unites us must also be a factor of closer approximation between our societies. It is for this purpose that, on behalf of all members of the CPLP, I emphasize the importance of strengthening Portuguese as a WHO working language. During the Brazilian presidency, we approved the restructuring of the e-PORTUGUESE Network, an important tool to promote the exchange of knowledge and information in health to be used by health professionals, public managers and the population of our countries.

Lastly, I commend the Cape Verdean government, which will take over the presidency of the CPLP from July 2018, with the certainty that we will continue to advance concrete initiatives for cooperation and political consultation on the health agenda in our Community.

Now, I would like to go through the speech made on national capacity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the World Health Organization is an opportunity not only to remember what has brought us here, but also, and especially, to reflect on what we expect from the Organization for the future.

Brazil is a historical defender of multilateralism. WHO plays a vital and irreplaceable role in improving the health, quality of life of populations and ensuring universal health coverage.
The choice of universal health coverage as the theme of this Assembly is very timely. This year, we also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS for its acronym in Portuguese), which serves more than 200 million Brazilians and foreigners in a universal and free fashion.

We are proud that Brazil was the first country to present its commitments for universal health coverage, in support of the strategy proposed by Dr. Tedros upon his visit to Brazil last March as that gave us a new opportunity to strengthen the cooperation ties between Brazil and WHO.

In line with WHO's efforts to value gender equality, I share with our satisfaction with the election of the first woman to lead the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Brazilian Elisabete Weiderpass.

Mr. President,

Managing a universal health system poses enormous challenges, particularly for developing countries. It is for this reason that Brazil pays particular attention to international cooperation in health as a strategy for the promotion of sustainable development.

The Brazilian government conducts more than one hundred health cooperation projects and activities with countries of all continents. We have strengthened South-South cooperation, in search of concrete results and with a vision geared towards capacity building and the sustainability of the initiatives.
We have confronted cases of measles, on the northern border of Brazil, and yellow fever in a coordinated manner with PAHO and WHO. In partnership with South American neighbors, we are intensifying epidemiological surveillance actions and strengthening health care in the border regions, which extend for more than fifteen thousand kilometers.

With the BRICS countries, we have expanded political consultation on health in multilateral forums, especially at WHO, to promote access to medicines, disease control and international cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration, we are called upon to reflect on the need to strengthen primary care and people-centered health care.

The promotion of health and the prevention of risk factors are essential for coping with chronic non-communicable diseases.

Within the framework of the Decade of Action for Nutrition, Brazil pioneered the presentation of SMART commitments to promote good nutrition and cope with obesity. We coordinated the Action Networks on sodium reduction and on the elaboration of Food Guides and chose nutrition as the working theme of the Foreign Policy and Global Health initiative in 2018.
We are engaged in the adoption of concrete and effective policies to contain the advance of obesity. Brazil will take steps to warn about excess sugar on the label of processed foods, and thus consumers will be able to make better informed choices. We are also structuring measures to reduce sugar in these foods.

Mr. Director General,

There is no universal health without the adoption of policies aimed at overcoming gender, ethnic-racial, economic, regional and social inequalities in access to health.

There is no universal health without the realization of intersectoral actions that aim at allowing everyone to enjoy the best living conditions, with special attention to those who need the most.

There is no universal health without access to medicines, vaccines, technologies and health services. For this reason, the Brazilian government announced the commitment to make a voluntary donation to WHO to promote access to medicines, vaccines and drugs.

We all, WHO members, accept the challenge of putting everyone's health, without distinction, in the first place. We hope it continues to be our beacon for the next few decades without leaving anyone behind.

Thank you!