



Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (resumed session)

Geneva, 9-14 November 2020

Item 11.5 - Ending Tuberculosis

Written Statement by BRAZIL

The end of tuberculosis has been a longstanding key priority for Brazil, which deploys a comprehensive set of public policies, actions and interventions aimed at eliminating the disease as a public health problem, in the context of the Universal Health System (SUS) and based on the right to health enshrined in our Constitution.

These efforts have resulted in reductions in the incidence and mortality from tuberculosis in the country. Nevertheless, Brazil remains a high burden country, particularly in our region.

Furthermore, our health system now faces a double burden, with the advent of COVID-19. According to preliminary data, the pandemic has negatively impacted the TB early diagnosis and timely treatment.

However, in spite of disruptions in the pharmaceutical supply chain due to COVID-19, Brazil has continued to provide universal, quality, free-of-charge and timely access



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to treatment for tuberculosis, by means of emergency purchases of medicines in fixed doses.

Brazil been investing significantly in research and development of new diagnostic tests and therapeutic alternatives.

Brazil highlights the importance of the Global Strategy for Tuberculosis Research and Innovation, which promotes the international advance in the search for new treatments, vaccines and diagnostic methods for the elimination of tuberculosis.

Brazil thanks the Russian Federation for the leadership towards the adoption of Resolution WHA73.3.

Brazil supports the promotion of further international collaboration in research and development for tuberculosis. We have acted in various fora towards this goal, especially through the BRICS Tuberculosis Research Network, financing research to develop innovative methods for treatment and diagnosis. In 2019, as chair of the BRICS, Brazil launched a public call for proposals for new technologies. In 2020, we launched a new call for proposals for research on COVID-19-TB co-infection.



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Brazil is also committed to improving its target review and monitoring mechanisms. The National Tuberculosis Strategy is under review. We will soon launch national targets and new strategies for the national response for the next five years, which will consider the impact of COVID-19 on essential health services.
