



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

73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (continued session)

Geneva, 9-14 November 2020

Item 11.8 (Neglected Tropical Diseases)

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

Brazil has made considerable efforts to eliminate, eradicate and control a significant number of the illnesses classified as Neglected Tropical Diseases by WHO, most notably onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trachoma, geohelminthiasis, Chagas disease, visceral leishmaniasis and leprosy.

In order to reduce the burden of NTDs nationally, Brazil has adhered to the Global Plan for Combating Neglected Tropical Diseases and to the Roadmap for Accelerating Work to Overcome the Global Impact of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Under them, we have implemented, since 2011, the “Integrated Plan for Strategic Actions for the Elimination of Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis, Filariasis and Leprosy, Trachoma as a cause of Blindness and Control of Geohelminthiasis”.



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Notwithstanding these advances, there are still investments to be made in order to achieve common goals for NTDs prevention and control.

These challenges go beyond health interventions. They are related to social, economic and environmental factors for the prevalence of such diseases. Interventions against NTDs are intrinsically associated with cost-effective solutions towards socioeconomic development.

With a view to accelerating the fight against leprosy, Brazil has implemented the "National Strategy for Confronting Leprosy (2019 - 2022)", which sets specific recommendations to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of the interventions across the different epidemiological scenarios. The Strategy aims to coordinate planning at all levels of government and is guided by three pillars: 1) strengthening of program management; 2) care for leprosy and its complications; and 3) fight against stigma and discrimination.

Brazil welcomes the development and adoption of the *Roadmap for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030*, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and with the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations worldwide.



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We encourage fellow Member States to implement the Roadmap, in accordance with their national priorities.

Furthermore, Brazil urges WHO to support, as appropriate, the implementation of the Roadmap and to advocate for attention to neglected tropical diseases, including through allocating resources from its core budget. WHO has an important role to play in fostering partnerships, monitoring progress in the implementation of the Roadmap and helping governments to implement it, in particular by enhanced access to safe, effective, quality and affordable diagnostics, vaccines, medicines and other health products.

Brazil supports the establishment of the World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day, as proposed by the EAU. World health days, weeks and years are important tools for raising awareness to health topics that are historically overlooked, as is the case of NTDs. These campaigns should reinforce the messages on the most significant health challenges and call for necessary action.

A World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day, along with the WHA-established World Chagas Disease Day and the internationally observed World Leprosy Day, will help our collective efforts to improve health and social well-being of all.



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