Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me reaffirm Brazil’s solidarity to those who have lost their loved ones and to all health workers.

COVID-19 remains a world crisis, with profound implications for health, economies and societies.

Brazil has been stressing the importance of protecting lives and livelihoods in our response.

The Constitution was amended to allow for extraordinary disbursements to fight the pandemic.

The Federal Government has mobilized almost USD 120 billion – or near 10% of our GDP:

- USD 20 billion to strengthen the Unified Health System (the SUS) with human resources, supplies, medicines, ventilators, diagnostic tests, ICU beds and PPEs, as well as to finance vaccines research, development and procurement;
- USD 20 billion in direct transfers to states and municipalities, whose health-related responsibilities to fight COVID-19 were confirmed by the Supreme Court;
- More than USD 10 billion to shield the workers’ revenues from lowered salaries or working-hours, and to support business activities, in particular of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; and
- Approximately USD 60 billion has financed an ambitious program of cash transfer. In a few weeks, more than 65 million people – the most vulnerable ones – had been identified and started to benefit from that emergency allowance.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil has also joined the international efforts to support countries and promote the equitable access to COVID-19 products and technologies.

We are in the Facilitation Council of the ACT Accelerator.
We are in the COVAX Facility.
We co-sponsored the C-TAP.
We have participated in the Solidarity Trials.
Mr. Chair,

Health systems are under pressure in many countries.

In Brazil, Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas, faces a strong and sudden resurgence.

The Federal Government is actively engaged.

Federal resources transferred to the state amounted to USD 3.5 billion in 2020.

The Minister of Health was in the city last week.

A National Task Force is working to help restore the local health system’s capacities.

With the support of the Air Force, and in partnership with the state, other public entities and the private sector, the lack of oxygen supply has been substantially reduced.

Mr. Chair,

Immunization is important to counter and overcome the pandemic.

Yesterday, Brazil’s regulatory agency – ANVISA – granted emergency authorization for use of 2 vaccines against COVID-19.
Today, the Federal Government has initiated the distribution of a batch of 6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all the states.

At this critical juncture, the Board should make a strong call on Member States, WHO, other international entities and the pharmaceutical companies to deliver in full and as a matter of urgency on their pledges and commitments to the fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, everywhere.

Thank you.