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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Virginia Dandan

Addendum

Mission to Brazil, 25 to 29 June 2012*

Summary

At the invitation of the Government of Brazil and in pursuance of her mandate, the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity undertook a country study visit to Brazil from 25 to 29 June 2012. She presented a summary report of this visit in her first annual report to the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council in September 2012.

This final report highlights the main observations of the Independent Expert in the course of her visit, the purpose of which was to exchange views with authorities and other relevant stakeholders, and to gather information about Brazil's experiences in international solidarity, including in the context of its international cooperation activities.

The Independent Expert welcomed Brazil's international cooperation initiatives in the fields of health, food security and nutrition, education, agricultural technology and rural development, and in the fight against hunger and poverty, among others. These initiatives founded on solidarity provide valuable lessons for setting a new paradigm in international development cooperation. Brazil's experiences illustrate the value of best practices as portals to the inherent interface between the policy and practice of international solidarity and the realization of human rights.

* The summary of the present report is circulated in all official languages. The report itself, which is annexed to the summary, is circulated in the language of submission only.

Annex

[English only]

Report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity on her mission to Brazil

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I. Introduction

1. In his last report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/15/32, July 2010), the former Independent Expert Rudi Muhammad Rizki stressed the selected areas of focus and emerging areas in which international solidarity should take a more central role, including in sustainable development, Financing for Development and South-South cooperation. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of following major global summits and ministerial meetings in the economic, social and climate fields with a view to promoting the right to international solidarity, and the conduct of country study visits to learn about and observe, the various good practices undertaken by different actors. The current Independent Expert, Ms. Virginia Dandan, recognizes that this view has important implications in her task of preparing a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, to be presented to the Human Rights Council by 2014.

2. The Independent Expert affirms that, while international cooperation plays a central role in international solidarity, international solidarity is not limited to international assistance and cooperation, aid, charity or humanitarian assistance. International solidarity should be understood as a broader concept that includes (a) sustainability in international relations, especially international economic relations; (b) the peaceful coexistence of all members of the international community; (c) equal partnerships and the equitable sharing of benefits and burdens; and (d) refraining from doing harm or posing obstacles to the greater well-being of others, including in the international economic system and to our common ecological habitat, for which all are responsible. A preventive solidarity must be put in place to confront global and local challenges, notably the alarming increase of natural and man-made disasters, and the continuing rises in poverty and inequality. She also notes that the notion of solidarity has defined the work of the United Nations since its inception, drawing together nations and peoples to promote peace and security, human rights and development. It is equally important to mention that the United Nations Millennium Declaration identified international solidarity as one of the fundamental values indispensable to international relations in the twenty-first century.¹

3. In her statement to the Human Rights Council,² Ms. Dandan expressed her view that solidarity "... is a persuasion that combines differences and opposites, holds them together into one heterogeneous whole, and nurtures it with the universal values of human rights. International solidarity therefore does not seek to homogenize but rather, to be the bridge across those differences and opposites, connecting to each other diverse peoples and countries with their heterogeneous interests, in mutually respectful, beneficial and reciprocal relations, imbued with the principles of human rights, equity and justice".

4. International solidarity is an elusive concept, and is particularly resistant to definition, rendering it almost an abstraction. But where it exists, it is unmistakable, permeating thought and action, its effects observable. Therefore, the task of developing norms and standards for what will eventually lead to the formulation of a draft declaration of the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, calls for dialogue with States, United Nations and other international agencies, and as many stakeholders as possible.

¹ General Assembly resolution 55/2 (www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm).

² "The International Solidarity, The Right to Development and the Agents of Change", Human Rights Council panel on "The Way Forward in the Realization of the Right to Development: Between Policy and Practice", seventh plenary meeting, eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September 2011, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Solidarity/Pages/Statements.aspx>.

5. Beyond this important consideration, it is critical to take into account the policy and actual practice of States, which are the vital conduits of international solidarity, and of international cooperation. The Independent Expert therefore considers that the most effective and appropriate way to understand policy on, and practice of, international solidarity is through empirical methods of study and observation on the ground.

6. In this context, the mission to Brazil, the first-ever conducted by this mandate, considered specific modalities arising from broad subject areas related to international solidarity such as (a) strategies and programmes relating to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 8 (global partnerships), informed by a gender perspective in all areas of concern; (b) elements of “solidarity diplomacy” and international cooperation initiatives including transfer of technology and building capacity in least developed countries (LDCs), cultural, scientific and educational exchange and scholarship programmes; (c) national-level implementation of political commitments to international agreements.

II. General overview: in search of good practices

7. In the present report, the Independent Expert documents the observations of her study visit to Brazil from 25 to 29 June 2012, for the purpose of exchanging views with the Government, civil society, academia, and regional and international stakeholders, to gather information on the experiences of Brazil in international solidarity, including and in particular in the context of its international cooperation activities. This report complements the summary version presented to the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council held in September 2012 (A/HRC/21/44).

8. The study visit was facilitated by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, who were focal points of the visit, which took place for the most part in the capital city of Brasilia, home to Government ministries and agencies. The Independent Expert, being in Rio de Janeiro in the previous week to attend the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), was able to intersperse her activities at the Conference, with visits to a Government institution and to a regional agency whose offices are based in Rio de Janeiro. Subsequent to her visit, the Independent Expert continued her engagement with Government officials to gather further information on recent developments prior to the submission of this report.

9. The Independent Expert valued the warm reception she received from the Government of Brazil and its institutions dealing with international cooperation, as well as its openness in discussing a range of topics relevant to her mandate. She notes with appreciation that – while the Government officials she met with expressed their pride, and rightfully so, when speaking of the numerous high profile achievements of Brazil, including the attainment of a number of Millennium Development Goals well before the deadline of 2015 – they also readily acknowledged and identified the many difficulties and obstacles that remain to be addressed and surmounted.³

10. During the mission, the Independent Expert met with officials of Government engaged in policy matters and activities in international cooperation. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brasilia, she met with (a) the Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC); (b) the Secretary for Cooperation and Trade Promotion; (c) the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs; (d) the Under-Secretary General for Policy; (e) the

³ United Nations Development Programme, Millennium Development Goals Progress Reports – Latin America and the Caribbean, August 2010.

Director of the Department of the Environment and Special Themes; (f) the Director of the Department of Human Rights and Social Affairs; (g) International Advisors at the Secretariat for Human Rights; (h) Secretary for Policies for Promotion of Racial Equality; (i) the Secretary for Policies for Women; (j) the General Coordinator of International Actions against Hunger and his team; (k) the Head of the Division of Educational Cooperation; and (l) the Head of the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation.

11. At Government ministries in Brasilia, the Independent Expert met with (a) the Secretary of Labour Inspection and her team; (b) the General Coordinator for Cooperation of the Ministry of Health and his team; (c) the Chief of the International Advisory Council; (d) officials of the International Department of the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger; (e) officials of the Secretariat for Science and Technology and for Social Inclusion; (f) the International Advisor to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation; (g) the Technical Cooperation Coordinator of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa); (h) the Ministry of Agriculture; (i) the Division Manager of the Bank of Brazil Foundation; and (j) the Chief Counsel for International Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Ministry of Agrarian Development.

12. At the Presidency of the Republic, the Independent Expert met with the Special Advisor to the Foreign Policy Unit of the Office of the President of Brazil and his team. She also met with the President of the Institute for Applied Economic Research and her team. She attended the National Council on Food Security, where she made a brief presentation on her mandate and the objectives of her study visit.

13. At the Brazilian Congress, the Independent Expert met with the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Senate and the Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Lower House. She also met with another Member of Parliament who was twice Chair of the Committee. A meeting was also held with the Vice-President of the Committee on External Relations and Defence of the Senate, concurrently, president of the Permanent Subcommittee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Measures Adopted in Rio+20 and the International Regime on Climate Change, and also former Minister of Education and rector of the University of Brasília.

14. In Rio de Janeiro, the Independent Expert met with the Executive Director of the South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS), a former Minister of Health of Brazil and his team, and with the Director of the Centre for International Relations of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) and his colleagues.

15. Consultation meetings were held with representatives of United Nations agencies in Brazil and with civil society organizations. A meeting was also held with the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

16. The Independent Expert thanks all of the above for their courtesies and the time shared with her. She is grateful to the following for their support and assistance: (a) Carlos da Cunha Oliveira and his team, the focal point at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the country study mission; (b) United Nations Resident Coordinator in Brazil Jorge Chediek and his team; and (c) Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva, and her team at the Permanent Mission.

17. The consultations and dialogues of the Independent Expert with officials of the Government of Brazil have been consolidated into this report, the primary consideration being given to the relevance of such information to the policy and practice of international solidarity.

18. The Independent Expert expresses her deep appreciation to the Government of Brazil for providing her the opportunity to observe and learn first-hand what she had only

previously read and heard about regarding the solidarity diplomacy of Brazil, which has generated a growing interest on the part of the international community.

III. Solidarity in the Brazilian context

19. Brazil is one of the few countries in the world to have achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals ahead of the 2015 deadline.⁴ During the past decade, the country has embarked on a path of sustained economic growth and financial stability, with full exercise of democracy and social inclusion resulting in considerable progress in its human rights agenda. Economic policies and innovative social policies implemented in the past decade have contributed to lift 40 million Brazilians out of poverty, creating a robust middle class which today serves as the engine of growth in the country. A good example of a successful social programme is the Bolsa Família, the largest cash transfer programme in the world implemented under the Zero Hunger Strategy in 2003.

20. Brazilians like to identify themselves as a solidarity nation.⁵ They claim that solidarity is expressed in the simple everyday practices of ordinary Brazilians and has been incorporated into major social policies such as those implemented in the past decade to combat socio-economic inequalities in the country. There is a common understanding among everyone of the need to work together for a more equal and inclusive society. The Independent Expert observed in her visit a strong sense of unity pervading Brazilian society, driving it towards a common goal of better conditions that will benefit all Brazilians. Solidarity movements emerged from their fight against hunger and poverty in the 1990s to a constituency of a solidarity economy. Some of the best examples include the cooperatives of “*catadores*”⁶—self-designed pickers of recyclable materials in the garbage dumps of big cities such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and the various social mobilization movements against deforestation in the Amazon and the fight against corruption. The level of engagement between the Government, private sector and civil society in setting up innovative social policies provides valuable lessons in solidarity.

21. Despite achievements, challenges still persist in the largest South American country. The sixth largest economy in the world, Brazil has a population of 200 million inhabitants, of which 16 million are still living in extreme poverty, and the level of inequality is one of the highest in the world. The newest programme, Brazil sem Miséria (Brazil without Misery), which has incorporated the former Zero Hunger Strategy, through a series of programmes, envisages promoting progress towards socially equitable growth, eradicating extreme poverty by 2014.⁷

22. Brazil embarked on numerous cooperation projects, as a way of sharing with other countries, valuable lessons learned from its successful experiences as well as the challenges it faced in its implementation of social policies. Policymakers involved in these cooperation projects also believe the engagement of the country with other partners is a two-way learning process because Brazil has also learned from its partner countries’ own experiences of successes and challenges, no matter what their economic situation. In fact, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has emphasized that Brazil’s actions on the international stage have been driven by a sense of solidarity. Brazil is convinced that it is possible to

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Celso Amorim at http://portal.saude.gov.br/portal/arquivos/pdf/entrevista_celso_amorim.pdf.

⁶ See <http://www.mncr.org.br/>.

⁷ For more information on the programme see *Brasil sem Miséria* website in Portuguese only at <http://www.brasilsemiserialia.gov.br>.

have a humanist foreign policy, without losing sight of the national interest.⁸ The so-called “Solidarity Diplomacy” has been the driving force in this process.

23. The positive impact of the innovative approach in Brazilian cooperation has resulted in requests from numerous countries for Brazil’s support under South-South cooperation projects as well at the multilateral level, including with the United Nations under the modality of triangular cooperation. This report focuses on international cooperation initiatives particularly in the fields of agriculture and food security, health and the social determinant of health, education and social protection, and their impact on the realization of human rights.

IV. Constitutional principles governing Brazil’s foreign policy

24. The 1988 Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil⁹ in its preamble encapsulates the commitment of the Brazilian people to solidarity. It states:

We, the representatives of the Brazilian People, convened in the national constituent assembly to institute a democratic state for the purpose of ensuring the exercise of social and individual rights, liberty, security, well-being, development, equality and justice as supreme values of a fraternal, pluralist and unprejudiced society, founded on social harmony and committed, in the internal and international orders, to the peaceful settlement of disputes, promulgate, under the protection of God, this Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

25. Article 1 states the key elements of the foundation of the Federative Republic of Brazil as the following: I – sovereignty; II – citizenship; III – the dignity of the human person; IV – the social values of labour and of the free enterprise; V – political pluralism. Article 3 states that fundamental objectives of the Federative Republic of Brazil are: I – to build a free, just and solidary society; II – to guarantee national development; III – to eradicate poverty and substandard living conditions and to reduce social and regional inequalities; IV – to promote the well-being of all, without prejudice as to origin, race, sex, colour, age and any other forms of discrimination. It also captures the essence of human rights.

26. The 1988 Constitution lays down a number of principles that govern Brazilian international relations, among which are national independence, the prevalence of human rights, self-determination, non-intervention, and cooperation among peoples for the progress of mankind. These principles are underpinned by the solidarity of Brazilian society, which is also enshrined in the Constitution, and together are applied in building a policy of international cooperation integrated into foreign policy goals.

27. These Constitutional principles that govern international relations have shaped the features of Brazilian cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, as Brazil seeks to contribute to the social and economic progress of other countries through the sharing of lessons learned, knowledge gained from successful experiences, and best practices. Brazil makes use of solutions created and developed domestically to support other countries facing similar difficulties in overcoming obstacles to their development.

⁸ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Celso Amorim, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil at the Opening of the General debate of the sixty-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 23 September 2010.

⁹ http://bd.camara.gov.br/bd/bitstream/handle/bdcamara/1344/constituicao_ingles_3ed.pdf.

28. Brazilian cooperation is based on requests received from other countries, with paramount consideration given to their specific needs, as well as in response to humanitarian appeals from international specialized agencies. There are no conditions imposed and it is not profit-oriented. The cooperation is driven by solidarity and adheres to the requirements of the Brazilian Constitution on non-intervention, respect for sovereignty and self-determination.

29. The head of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) described Brazilian cooperation as an exchange between equals, rather than an interaction between donor and recipient. Brazilian cooperation is in the image of the Brazilian people, a nation with mixed societies that live in peace. They are in many ways idealistic, and despite the poverty, a strong feeling of solidarity, rather than pity, prevails. Cooperation should be seen as more than solving problems; it is a dialogue between nations and peoples to address problems together.

30. An important feature of Brazilian technical cooperation is that both partners learn from each other in the exchange of experiences and knowledge, affirming reciprocal solidarity among peoples. Partner countries are not passive recipients but are actively involved right from the stage of negotiation, ensuring that cooperation methodology is appropriate to the context of the local reality.

V. Brazilian International Cooperation and Solidarity Initiatives

31. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency, which is affiliated with the Ministry of External Relations, is the agency mandated to negotiate, coordinate, implement and monitor technical cooperation programmes in which Brazil participates. ABC provides guidance to other Brazilian agencies regarding cooperation opportunities involving Brazil, supporting the preparation of projects, coordinating negotiations between the parties involved, monitoring and evaluating project implementation, and publicizing information on project development and results. This has made it possible to propagate technical knowledge from Brazilian institutions to their counterparts in more than 80 developing countries. It therefore requires a commitment to cooperation on the part of public agencies and entities, private universities and civil society organizations involved in the partnership.

32. Brazilian international technical cooperation is a demand-driven process based on solidarity between developing countries, with the aim of helping partner countries to strengthen their institutions and human resources. Thus, the main goal of Brazilian South-South technical cooperation is capacity development. Partner countries benefit from an effective transfer of knowledge, and from the exchange of experiences previously developed under similar socio-economic realities.

33. Technical cooperation, scholarships for foreigners, international humanitarian cooperation, and contribution to international organizations are the main modalities of what Brazil defines as Brazilian cooperation for international development. Agriculture, food security and nutrition, health, education and vocational training are the key areas of cooperation. Brazilian cooperation in Africa also aims to strengthen relations with African Portuguese-speaking countries (Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa (PALOP)): Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe. The key focus for Asian cooperation projects is in Timor-Leste, with an emphasis on agriculture and food security, education, the judicial system, vocational training and public administration. Brazil has recently initiated relations with four Asian countries that belong to the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs: Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

34. South-South cooperation contributes to consolidating the relations of Brazil with partner countries as it enhances general interchange; generates, disseminates and applies technical knowledge; builds human resource capacity; and, mainly, strengthens institutions in all nations involved while at the same time reinforcing public policies in Brazil. Brazilian cooperation agreements are in place with 30 developing countries in South, Central and North America and the Caribbean. It also maintains technical cooperation programmes with 38 African countries, 22 of which belong to the group of LDCs.

35. Brazil implements triangular technical cooperation guided by the same principles that inform its South-South cooperation. Triangular cooperation makes it possible to match the comparative advantage from South-South cooperation and other development partners (bilateral and multilateral), leveraging the impact of knowledge sharing between developing countries. These factors result in greater positive impact in fostering local development processes. Brazil has implemented or is implementing agreements of triangular cooperation with the United States, the European Union and a number of its members, Japan, and in countries in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations agencies are also playing an important role in Brazilian international cooperation, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) are also partnering with Brazil in support of South-South cooperation initiatives.

36. Brazil is also engaged in other modalities of cooperation consistent with the principles applied to their other forms of cooperation and which are presently in the initial phase of implementation, including the following:

(a) In the interregional context, the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA)¹⁰ created in 2003 by the three countries, established the IBSA Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger, a pioneer initiative created in 2004 with the purpose of identifying replicable and scalable projects that can be jointly adapted and implemented in interested developing countries. Best practices of the three countries are shared with LDCs through projects financed by the IBSA Fund, in areas such as agriculture development and food security, safe drinking water, health care and infrastructure, waste collection and recycling, and building capacity to combat HIV/AIDS. Also in the interregional sphere, three important initiatives with growing importance are the Africa-South America Summit, Arab Countries-South America Summit, and the Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation between East Asia and Latin America. In addition, the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation and the Brazil-Russian-India-China and South Africa Summit (BRICS) have been established.¹¹

(b) In the regional context, Brazil is engaged in three integration projects with different levels of cooperation. They are the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay,¹² Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) consisting of the 12 countries of the subcontinent, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC),¹³ a major project that recently began implementation and including all the 33

¹⁰ See <http://www.ibsa-trilateral.org>.

¹¹ For detailed information see <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br>.

¹² Paraguay has been suspended since June 2012.

¹³ See <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/temas/america-do-sul-e-integracao-regional/celac>.

countries of the region, with the first summit after its establishment taking place in January 2013 in Santiago, Chile.

VI. Good practices in international solidarity and cooperation

37. Good practices are cited in this report on the basis that their outcomes carry great potential for providing an enabling environment for the realization of human rights.

A. Empowering women: towards realizing gender equality

38. Brazil has successfully implemented policies and measures in combating violence against women, including sexual violence, achieving progress in health and education as well as social assistance, which have become important examples for policies in these fields. June 19, 2012, during the Rio +20 Conference, was marked by the signing ceremony of the Implementing Programme between UN-Women, through the UN-Women Office in Brazil, and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of External Relations, for the promotion of South-South technical cooperation and the Brazil UN-Women Partnership Programme for the promotion of South-South cooperation in gender equality. Through this project, Brazil will share its experiences in the field of gender equality and women empowerment with African, Latin American and Caribbean countries.

39. According to the Brazilian Cooperation Agency “the implementation of the Partnership Programme will take into account the Brazilian South-South cooperation principles, based on the dissemination and exchange of successful experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in Brazil, to be shared and adapted to the situation and local needs of each country in the light of requests received”. In Haiti, Brazil is helping the construction of a Centre of Reference and Assistance for women and a Police Station for women, and is also supporting the preparation of a national plan for women in Haiti.

B. Social protection: towards realizing the right to an adequate standard of living

40. Brazil has a longstanding experience with public policies for social protection. It began in the 1930s with the Labour Code, which consolidated labour laws in the country. In the past decades, it has progressively incorporated new labour sectors.¹⁴ The Constitution of 1988 launched a model of Social Security based on citizenship rights with the goal of a broad social protection system that would coordinate contributory, non-contributory and targeted policies. The Constitution has three key components: Social Insurance (contributive pensions), Health (Unified National Health System) and Social Assistance.

41. In recent decades, income inequality has persisted in many countries throughout the world, despite the decline in absolute poverty. (See the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order and an assessment of the implications of inequality for development (A/67/394)). Being one of the most unequal countries in the world, Brazil is particularly challenged, as 16 million of its citizens are still living in extreme poverty despite its achievement in the last few years, during which time 28 million Brazilians crossed the absolute poverty line and 36 million entered the so-called middle class. In order to face this challenge, Brazil launched in June 2011, the *Brasil Sem*

¹⁴ Ministry of Social Development, 2009 available at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/gasecond/2009/Filho.pdf>.

Miséria (Brazil without Misery) plan.¹⁵ The programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger¹⁶ and involves more than 10 ministries, thus placing social policies at the core of its economic development strategy.

42. Previous initiatives to fight poverty such as the Bolsa Família Programme and the Programme for the Acquisition of Food (Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos) were expanded and reinvigorated. Brasil Sem Miséria also introduced novelties such as the Bolsa Verde Programme (Green Purse), the Incentive to Rural Productive Activities (Fomento às Atividades Produtivas Rurais) and the Brasil Carinhoso Action – a drastic measure that allows the immediate reduction of 40 per cent in the number of families in a situation of extreme poverty, with 2.7 million children from 0 to 6 years of age being saved from misery.¹⁷ It also has a *Busca Ativa* strategy adopted by Brasil Sem Miséria to find and register all extremely poor families that have not yet been located. The Brasil Sem Miséria plan has three main axis of action: (a) the income guarantee axis, which refers to transfers for the immediate relief of the extreme poverty situation; (b) the productive inclusion axis, which offers job and income opportunities to the plan's target public; and (c) the access to public services axis, for the provision or expansion of actions of citizenship and social welfare.

43. Social policies have contributed to the creation of a dynamic domestic market led by the middle-class and which generated certain resilience. Two public policy systems were created with universal coverage: the Unified Social Assistance System and the National System on Food and Nutritional Security. The Bolsa Família Programme, a conditional cash transfer programme, launched in October 2003 and instituted by Federal Law, sets the strategic axis for the integration of policies and actions that are part of the Brazilian Social Protection and Promotion Network.

44. Given the positive results achieved in recent years, the Brazilian Government, through its Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, has been encouraged to put a special effort on social policy technology transfer, and to strengthen social development beyond its borders, putting into practice the so-called diplomacy of social policy that is presently being implemented. International cooperation in the social field is guided by (a) a focus on building institutional capacities in partner countries; (b) the multiplier effect in cooperation projects; (c) cultural and linguistic similarities; and (d) the transfer of social technology adaptable to local contexts.

45. A few examples of ongoing cooperation include:

(a) The Brazil-Africa Programme for cooperation on social protection, the outcome of a partnership between the Ministry of Social Development, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. The cooperation was developed in four areas: regional technical cooperation, technical assistance, study missions and distance learning. The countries involved are Angola, Ghana and Mozambique.

(b) Promotion of the right to adequate food through the reduction of social and food vulnerability of populations in African countries. This is accomplished by strengthening programmes for local purchase of food supply, such as government and United Nations agencies' strategy for assistance and food aid, including school feeding programmes, and also for humanitarian purposes, as in the case of the Agriculture Food

¹⁵ See Brasil sem Miséria at <http://www.brasilsemiserialia.gov.br>.

¹⁶ See <http://www.mds.gov.br>.

¹⁷ See <http://www.mds.gov.br/brasilsemiserialia/brasil-carinhoso>.

Purchase Programme (PAA) Africa Programme. Partner countries are Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

(c) Cooperation between Brazil, the United Kingdom and Ghana to support the design of the Livelihoods Empowerment against Poverty programme of the Government of Ghana.

(d) In El Salvador: (a) a programme for promoting the institutional strengthening of entities involved in social policy management and implementation; (b) optimization of the decentralized management of social policies and programmes; promotion of the intersectoral commitment of all stakeholders to mobilize local, regional, national and international resources for implementation and management of social programmes and policies; (c) support for the formulation process of a normative proposal for the institutionalization of the Salvadoran social protection system; (d) the creation of mechanisms to improve the dialogue between Government and civil society; (e) improvement of effective capacity of Salvadoran social policies and programme managers; and (f) integration of the children and adolescents protection system in the country.

46. In 2007, the Brazilian Government and the International Labour Organization launched an initiative to promote specific South-South technical cooperation projects and activities that contribute effectively to the prevention and elimination of child labour, in accordance with the international obligations of each country.

47. A significant example of South-South solidarity is the IBSA Dialogue Forum, a major trilateral development initiative which has been a major driver of South-South cooperation and exchanges in social policies among the IBSA member countries and other countries. In a 2010 Summit, IBSA leaders reiterated the need to promote a job-intensive recovery from the economic slowdown and to create a framework for sustainable growth and a strong cooperation between ILO and IBSA countries. An IBSA International Conference on South-South Cooperation Innovations in Public Employment Programmes and Sustainable Inclusive Growth was held in New Delhi from 1 to 3 March 2012 to (a) share knowledge between countries; (b) ensure better cohesion for overall inclusive growth with equity; (c) contribute to the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda and its strategic objectives in the fields of employment, social protection, work-related rights and social dialogue; and (d) support and work with ILO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative to foster greater solidarity and enhance equality among countries and peoples in the world of work.

48. Important initiatives are taking place also at the regional and subregional levels. One example is the establishment of the Instituto de Políticas Públicas em Direitos Humanos do MERCOSUL (Institute of Public Policy on Human Rights),¹⁸ a body of MERCOSUR, which operates as a forum for technical cooperation, research and coordination of public policies on human rights in the countries that make up this regional bloc.

C. Agriculture and food security: towards realizing the right to food

49. For decades Brazil, as one of largest agricultural producers and exporters in the world, faced a challenging contradiction. At the same time that the country was celebrating huge progress in agricultural terms, with its pioneering tropical agriculture research, production increases at historical levels and economic progress, hunger still persisted and represented a major social challenge. According to FAO's estimates, some 16.7 million Brazilians (10 per cent of the population) were chronically undernourished at the end of the

¹⁸ See <http://www.ipdh.mercosur.int/>.

1990s.¹⁹ This challenge and developments in the past year have been well documented by current and former special rapporteurs on the right to food.²⁰

50. When elected for his first term, former President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva made eradication of hunger a key priority of his agenda, and a national cause. He called for a great national movement to fight for this cause. A national policy, termed Zero Hunger strategy, was implemented in 2003 with the aim of eradicating hunger by the end of the President's term. Zero Hunger was grounded on solidarity and implemented through a cash transfer programme (Bolsa Familia) and a major school meal programme that strengthened family agriculture. The school meal programme was responsible for more than 70 per cent of total food consumed in the country. The Agriculture Food Purchase Programme (PAA) today buys 30 per cent of food for school meals, locally and from family farmers.

51. In 2006, a National Food and Nutritional Security Framework Law was approved by the Brazilian Congress (Law 11.346).²¹ The law acknowledges that adequate food is a basic human right and is indispensable in realizing other rights that are set forth in the country's federal Constitution.²² The debate and institutionalization of a policy for food and nutritional security was considered as one of the most important achievements in the social policies of the last few years. Key areas of focus are strengthening of family agriculture, food supply and promotion of health and adequate food.

52. Brazilian foreign policy prioritized the fight against hunger and poverty as an instrument for promoting international solidarity. In January 2004, the Presidents of Brazil, Chile and France, with the support of the United Nations Secretary-General, launched an initiative to fight hunger and poverty, calling on the international community to create new sources of financing for development in order to make progress toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A Summit of World Leaders for Action against Hunger and Poverty was held later in September the same year on the eve of the General Assembly. It adopted the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty signed by 111 national Governments²³ stating that at the present stage of technological progress and agricultural production worldwide, the persistence of this situation is economically irrational, politically unacceptable and morally shameful and called for a renewed political mobilization to fight these challenges.

53. Agriculture has become a central element of Brazilian cooperation along with health and education among others. This cooperation is taking place with not only Southern but also with Northern and multilateral partners, including the United Nations system. Food security, genetic improvement, agricultural technology transfer, soil conservation, family farming, rural development, irrigation, cooperatives, renewable and clean energy, and rural development are examples of Brazil's cooperation initiatives.

54. The agro-ecological and climate similarities between Africa and Brazil have contributed to making agriculture one of the key axes of Brazilian solidarity diplomacy with Africa. Since 2002, more than 50 agreements were signed with nearly 20 countries,

¹⁹ See FAO "Brazil: The hunger of the missed meal" at

<http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/13320-en.html>.

²⁰ Country missions to Brazil undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food are available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/Visits.aspx>.

²¹ See also FAO, "Right to Food: Lessons Learned in Brazil", p. 20 (2007), <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1331e/a1331e.pdf>.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 21.

²³ The New York Declaration on action against hunger and poverty is available at http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/IMG/pdf/Declaration_de_New_York_sur_l_action_contre_la_faim_et_la_pauvrete_20_septembre_2004.pdf.

including Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Tunisia²⁴. An office of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Enterprise (Embrapa) was established in Accra, Ghana with a view to supporting the technological and productive improvement of savannah agriculture in Africa.

55. In Latin America and Caribbean region, Brazilian experiences in agriculture are providing examples for many initiatives under implementation in the regional and bilateral cooperation under MERCOSUR, UNASUR and CELAC regional integration processes, in areas such as family farming and transfer of technology, among others. The Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative draws from the Brazilian experience and is a commitment by the countries and organizations of the region, with support from FAO, to contribute actively in creating the conditions that will lead to the eradication of hunger permanently by 2025.²⁵

56. Brazil has also engaged in numerous agricultural cooperation projects in other developing countries in partnership with donor countries. The ProSavanna Project is a pioneer triangular partnership between Brazil, Japan and Mozambique to accelerate agricultural growth in Mozambique through the development of improved seeds of soybean and rice, improving soil health, and funding roads and other infrastructure. Agriculture remains largely the key sector for social-economic development in the country employing 80 percent of the labour force.²⁶ The EU–Brazil Strategic Partnership, set up in 2008, started to explore opportunities for triangular cooperation with developing countries in the field of agriculture, through promotion of innovation leading to a more efficient production within African countries.²⁷

57. In the United Nations, key agencies such as FAO, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are engaged in cooperation projects and initiatives with Brazil, which has become a major donor for international humanitarian cooperation in Latin America, for example in the case of Haiti, Palestine and the countries in the Horn of Africa. In 2011, WFP and the Government of Brazil launched a Centre of Excellence Against Hunger based in Brasilia, which will assist countries to improve, expand and eventually run their own national school meal programmes.

The example of Embrapa

58. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, has been one of the most important actors in the field of the country's technical cooperation in agriculture. It was set up in 1973 with the mission to provide research, development and innovation towards finding feasible solutions for the sustainable development of agriculture for the benefit of Brazilian society. Embrapa was established when Brazilian agriculture was marked by low production and yields, economic instability, lack of specific knowledge about tropical agriculture and institutional

²⁴ See Brazil's statement at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support. New York, 17 October 2012.

²⁵ See <http://www.rlc.fao.org/en/initiative/the-initiative>.

²⁶ See the ProSavanna project at <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/g20/Documents/pro-savannah-case-study.pdf>.

²⁷ See the Brazil-European Union Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan at http://eeas.europa.eu/brazil/docs/2008_joint_action_plan_en.pdf.

void, among other challenges.²⁸ The establishment of Embrapa led to the building of a pioneer research capability on agriculture in the country that has global dimensions.

59. Today, Embrapa has 10,000 personnel including 2,500 researchers conducting studies from technologies for family farming in the poorest north-east region of the country, to highly advanced research such as nanotechnology. There are currently 45 Research Centres on different themes all over the country, which have a presence through their so-called virtual laboratories in the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. Physical offices have been established in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Ghana. Embrapa is contributing to the democratization of knowledge in agricultural sciences and related areas.

60. Embrapa's work has been key to the success of Brazilian tropical agriculture, motivating other countries with similar problems and challenges to seek information and partnership with Embrapa. International cooperation has been crucial in the establishment and consolidation of Embrapa, today considered the most advanced tropical agriculture research institute in the world.

61. It has a strong post-graduate programme, which has sent hundreds of young professionals to the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and Australia. Projects funded by the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the Japanese Government have been very important in financing this human development programme and also in equipping the research units. Embrapa is a major conduit for the cooperation of Brazil with a number of countries, to transfer its experiences and technology, and to adapt these to local conditions in partner countries.

62. Brazil has shared with partner countries its expertise in access and food production – (a) genetic improvement; (b) enhanced planting, irrigation and harvest methods; (c) use of agricultural machinery; (d) animal husbandry; and (e) animal product processing – and in marketing. It has sought to enhance food security and nutrition through strengthening family agriculture, and has been particularly successful in establishing farmer cooperatives in order to add value to their produce and to increase family income. Sharing of best practices consolidated by the Brazilian Government with developing countries expands the geographic scope of Brazilian cooperation and introduces policies and programmes that were implemented successfully in Brazil to lift its people out of poverty. Brazilian cooperatives are exemplars in the solidarity economy. The 1,600 agricultural cooperatives in Brazil have almost a million members, generating 160,000 jobs and representing 30 per cent of agricultural gross domestic product, with its agri-food exports bringing in revenues of \$6 billion in 2012.²⁹ Brazil's experience with cooperatives is now being shared with African countries and has inspired similar models in other countries. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Brazilian Cooperatives Organization undertook a mission to Botswana in 2011, to explore the possibilities of developing agricultural cooperatives in that African country.

63. The Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace initiative is a process that focuses on generating benefits for smallholder farmers and producers. Its objective is to enhance agricultural innovation for development on the African continent by establishing and strengthening partnerships between African and Brazilian organizations.

64. The Marketplace will open a new source of expertise to Africa, to identify and target pro-poor, smallholder-based project utilizing Brazilian innovation research. The

²⁸ See <http://www.iagre.org/sites/iagre.org/files/conferences/brazilag%20-%20for%20web.pdf>.

²⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply, FAO and Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives.

Marketplace was developed by Embrapa and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), with support from the United Kingdom's DFID, IFAD, the World Bank, the ABC, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This South-South collaboration with active Northern support is making an important contribution to more productive agriculture and more affordable food for the poor in Africa, complementing other ongoing efforts. The same initiative has recently started implementation in another region, the Latin-American and Caribbean (LAC) region. It is known as the LAC-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace.

65. A programme to provide support for the development of the cotton industry in C4 Countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), also known as the Cotton 4 Project, was set up in 2008 with the official support of the Brazilian Government for the World Trade Organization Cotton Initiative, brought forward by C4 countries as a result of their losses due to subsidy policies used in the international cotton market. The objectives of the project included (a) the development of the cotton industry in C4 countries; (b) the transfer of Brazilian technology to increase the profitability of the cotton supply chain; and (c) improvement of the quality of life, food security and nutrition levels in beneficiary countries. Under the framework of this project, Brazil is also cooperating with Mali to revitalize the Sotuba Research Centre outside of Bamako.

66. In 2012, the Brazilian Government signed a project with FAO aiming to provide financial support for a new local food purchase programme to be set up by FAO and WFP. The programme will initially benefit small farmers and vulnerable populations in five African countries – Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.³⁰ The project envisages the sharing of Brazil's experiences with its own national Agriculture Food Purchase Programme (PAA), a programme that buys agricultural products from smallholders and delivers them to at-risk categories, including children and youth, through school feeding programmes. The PAA is considered by FAO to be a cornerstone of the country's Zero Hunger strategy.

D. Health and the social determinants of health: towards realizing the right to health

67. The Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988 established health as a right of all citizens and a public duty leading to strong policy on the right to universal access to health services. It reflected the strong commitment of the Government and support by civil society through a well-organized social movement mobilization. The Unified Health System (SUS) was created as the primary network of public health institutions aiming to provide, finance and manage health services. SUS is one of the largest public health systems in the world, with a wide coverage, from outpatient care to complex procedures such as organ transplants, guaranteeing full, universal and free access for the entire country's population.³¹ Policy also focused on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, with a compulsory licensing of patents related to an anti-retroviral medicine used by the National STD/AIDS Programme being implemented in 2007 to ensure free treatment for all Brazilians infected with HIV/AIDS.

68. Currently, SUS attends to the care of 145 million citizens³² and represents a world example of universal health coverage programme funded through solidarity taxes

³⁰ Brazil to fund food purchasing in five African countries at <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/123551/icode>.

³¹ Survey of the Brazilian Cooperation for International Development 2005–2009.

³² Ministry of Health, 2012.

representing its citizens' contribution to the public budget. The programme is oriented by the principles of universal access, equality and integrity in the assistance, community participation and decentralization. Brazil sees the right to health as a key element for development and building of a more equal, inclusive and fair society.

1. Building strong public institutions: the case of Fiocruz

69. The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) was established in 1900 in Rio de Janeiro, with the task of addressing public health problems in Brazil. Fiocruz is attached to the Ministry of Health and is considered as one of the leading science and technology health institutions in the world. It is responsible for research, production of vaccines and medicines, and controlling the quality of products and services. Its activities include provision of hospital and outpatient services, implementation of social programmes, teaching activities and the training and qualification of professionals and researchers. Fiocruz mission is to promote health and social development, to forge and disseminate scientific and technological knowledge, and to be an agent of citizenship.

70. Fiocruz has become renowned as a leading research centre for the control of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. It manufactures pharmaceutical products for SUS. With one of the largest public pharmaceutical laboratories in the country – the Drug Technology Institute (Farmanguinhos) – Fiocruz has achieved vast experience in production technologies for drugs used in HIV/AIDS treatment. Fiocruz is presently involved in the establishment of an antiretroviral production plant in Mozambique. The project includes multidisciplinary implementation such as training of local technical staff in surveillance, inspection, certification and control of medication, and also its production and commercialization processes, so that the Mozambican regulatory agency can efficiently implant the antiretroviral (ARV) production plant.

71. Brazil's first Human Milk Bank (HMB) was opened in 1943 as a result of research, technology development, teaching and consultancy work by Fiocruz. HMBs have developed to become what is known today as the world's largest and most complex HMB network, the foremost Government strategy to reduce infant mortality. It is a model that combines high reliability and technical accuracy at a low operating cost. In 2001, WHO awarded the HMB network for its major contribution in reducing infant mortality and promoting breastfeeding in the 1990s. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency has 19 HMB projects already being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with initiatives of this Brazilian model in African countries. European countries such as Portugal and Spain have also adopted the HMB technology initiated and developed by Brazil.

2. Engagement in global health diplomacy

72. Brazil believes that international solidarity should have a global perspective on health and human rights, and has thus made a strong commitment to share its own experiences and challenges through international cooperation towards strengthening internal public health policies and practices worldwide. This conviction was expressed by former President Lula da Silva in his early interaction with G8 leaders in his statement: "In a globalized world, in which global threats come mainly from poverty, alienation and social exclusion, solidarity is not only a moral duty, it is a display of enlightened self-interest."³³

73. Brazil has since become a key player in health diplomacy by (a) defending universal health coverage; (b) widening access to medicines, in particular for vulnerable

³³ Statement by the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Ambassador Celso Amorim, at the Sixtieth World Health Assembly — Geneva, 15 May 2007 – http://www.brazil.org.uk/press/speeches_files/20070515.html.

communities; (c) strengthening health systems; (d) combating chronic non-transmissible diseases; (e) controlling tobacco; and (f) giving attention to the social determinants of health. Health was placed at the core of the Action against Hunger and Poverty, launched in 2004 by President Lula da Silva and other world leaders in New York, where the President stated that health was key to development and to combating poverty.³⁴ Together with France, Chile, Norway and the United Kingdom, Brazil has launched the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID.³⁵ This initiative marked a major example of the potential of international solidarity in creating an innovative mechanism to fund access to high-quality drugs and the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

74. Brazil was one of the countries that led the initiative on Global Health and Foreign Policy, launched in September 2006 in New York, on the sidelines of the General Assembly, which led to the Oslo Ministerial Declaration a year later, urgently calling for a more expansive foreign policy to create a new paradigm of cooperation, and outlining the linkages between foreign policy and health.³⁶ In 2011, Brazil hosted the WHO World Conference on Social Determinants of Health. The Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health that was consequently adopted, was a global political commitment to reduce health inequities and to achieve other global priorities by building momentum within countries for the development of dedicated national action plans and strategies.³⁷

3. Bringing the health agenda across borders

75. Health is a priority both on the Brazilian domestic agenda and for international cooperation, where it applies its structural approach, characterized by efforts to develop individual and institutional capacity in partner countries, with sustainable results. Health as a right of all and as a duty of the State, drives Brazilian cooperation, and is implemented based on mutual respect and a commonly agreed agenda.

76. The main Brazilian cooperation projects in Africa and South America focus on human resource training, capacity-building in research, teaching or services, and on strengthening or setting up health system institutions, including ministries of health, schools of public health, national health institutes, faculties for higher professional training, polytechnic health colleges, technological development, and production institutes and factories. The public health system of Brazil and its international health cooperation are based on the principle of universal access to the public health system.

77. In the regional context, Brazil has advocated for a strong regional cooperation on health. It took the lead in establishing the South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS) with its main office in Rio de Janeiro. ISAGS,³⁸ inaugurated in 2011, is an intergovernmental entity and a member of the South American Health Council of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).³⁹ ISAGS is a key institution for strengthening coordination and exchange between the health authorities and other Government authorities. The focus areas of the UNASUR Five-Year Health Plan are the South American health vigilance and response network, universal health system development, universal access to medication, health promotion and health determinants, human resources

³⁴ See footnote 29.

³⁵ See <http://www.unitaid.eu/fr/>.

³⁶ Brazil's conception of South-South "structural cooperation" in health, Review Global Forum Update on Research for Health – Innovating for the health of all, 2009, Vol. 6: 100-107.

³⁷ Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 21 October 2011 available from http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio_political_declaration.pdf.

³⁸ See <http://isags-unasul.org/interna.asp?lang=2&idArea=1&idSubArea=34>.

³⁹ See <http://www.unasursg.org/>.

and management. Committed to implementing the South American Health Agenda and the scope of priorities in the UNASUR 2010–2015 Five-Year Health Plan, ISAGS accordingly focuses its actions on the following strategies: (a) interchange and training of human resources; (b) lines of research and diagnostics; (c) accumulation and dissemination of knowledge on governance in health; (d) organization of the supply and demand for cooperation; and (e) promotion of networking.

78. A trilateral agreement between Haiti, Cuba and Brazil is focused on the implementation of Haitian health structures, the establishment of a national outpatient system, the training of health workers, especially middle-level staff that the system urgently needs, and the control of infectious diseases. It involves the complete rebuilding of the health system to make it more capable of meeting the health needs of the Haitian people. The day after the earthquake, parameters were established to guide the reconstruction of the Haitian health system. One of the aims of the agreement is the provision of universal access, and the achievement thereof is based on the population's wish to participate in the rebuilding of the country and its ability to develop innovative forms of solidarity.

E. The full development of the person: towards realizing the right to education

79. The Brazilian Constitution of 1988 declared education as a right of all, and duty of the State and of the family, to be promoted and fostered with the cooperation of society, with a view to the full development of the person, his preparation for the exercise of citizenship and his qualification for work (Article 205).⁴⁰ The Brazilian Constitution of 1946 had already stated in its article 166 that education was a right of all which should be inspired by the principles of freedom and ideals of human solidarity,⁴¹ both endorsed in the later National Education and Guidelines Framework Law adopted in 1996.⁴²

80. In an effort to ensure the education of Brazilians, social programmes recently implemented have included education as a key element. This is the case of the Bolsa Família, in which beneficiaries must accomplish certain requirements, including school enrolment and minimum attendance. A programme called PROUNI⁴³ was implemented to enable poor students to have access to higher education through grants that cover their costs. Recent developments in the field of education include a new Government policy requiring the 56 public federal universities to guarantee 50 per cent of their admissions to be filled by students coming from public secondary schools. Special attention has also been given to ethnic groups with lower participation in higher education such as Afro-Brazilians. The Open University of Brazil⁴⁴ has been created to offer distance education.

81. A pioneer programme for international exchange and mobility in higher education is being implemented under the *Ciência sem fronteiras* programme (Science without Borders) established in 2012.⁴⁵ The strategy is to (a) increase the presence of students, scientists and industry personnel from Brazil in international institutions of excellence, negotiating the extension of support from the private sector for the payment of the fees involved or the

⁴⁰ Text of the Brazilian Constitution 1988 available from http://bd.camara.gov.br/bd/bitstream/handle/bdcamara/1344/constituicao_ingles_3ed.pdf.

⁴¹ Article 166 of the Brazilian Constitution 1946.

⁴² See http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/L9394.htm.

⁴³ See <http://siteprouni.mec.gov.br/>.

⁴⁴ See <http://www.uab.capes.gov.br/>.

⁴⁵ *Ciência sem Fronteiras* (Science without Borders) programme – <http://www.cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br>.

exemption of these fees with universities or local governments; (b) encourage young talents and highly qualified researchers from abroad to work with local investigators in joint projects, contributing to the capacitation of human resources and promoting the return of Brazilian scientists working overseas; and (c) induce the internationalization of universities and research centres in Brazil by encouraging the establishment of international partnerships and a meaningful review of their internal procedures in order to make the interaction with foreign partners feasible. The programme aims to provide 75,000 grants offered by the federal Government and another 26,000 will be offered by the private sector, which reinforces the role of private sector in supporting Government actions on science and technology development.

82. Two federal universities were created with regional and interregional dimensions and are examples of solidarity cooperation undertaken by Brazil in the field of education. The Universidade Federal da Integração Latino-Americana (UNILA),⁴⁶ located in Foz do Iguaçu in the State of Paraná was established in 2010. The objective of the university is to pursue interregional trans-disciplinary research and teaching in the areas of joint interest of MERCOSUR member countries⁴⁷ focusing, for example, on the use of natural resources, trans-border biodiversity, social sciences and linguistic research and international relations, as well as relevant disciplines for strategic development. Half of its student quota is for Brazilians, while the other half is for other Latin Americans subsidized by Brazil.

83. The Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira (UNILAB),⁴⁸ is another example of cooperation solidarity and a boost for South-South cooperation in higher education.⁴⁹ It is based in Redenção, in the north-east of Brazil, a place with historical importance as it was the first city to abolish slavery in Brazil. Half its students are Brazilian, and half are from Portuguese-speaking African countries, subsidized by Brazil. The teaching staff is comprised of Brazilian and African professors. In five years, UNILAB expects to have 5,000 Brazilian and African students in undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of Health, Agronomy, Teacher Training, Engineering and Public Administration.⁵⁰ In October 2012, UNILAB and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency signed an agreement to implement a pioneer project to provide the structuring of the network's cultural and academic cooperation through partnerships with universities and research centres in the eight Portuguese-speaking countries of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa).⁵¹

VII. Concluding remarks

84. **The Independent Expert reiterates her sincere appreciation to the Government of Brazil for the gracious hospitality and openness of all its officials and personnel who willingly gave of their time to share their experience and knowledge, contributing**

⁴⁶ See UNILA website at <http://www.unila.edu.br>.

⁴⁷ MERCOSUR is composed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been a full member since July 2012 and Paraguay has been suspended since June 2012.

⁴⁸ International Integration University of African-Brazilian Portuguese-speaking Countries (UNILAB) – <http://www.unilab.edu.br/>.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ The Brazilian Example of the New Afro-Brazilian University: Foreign Policy, Innovation and South-South Cooperation – <http://www.guninetwork.org/resources/good-practices/good-practices-listing/the-brazilian-example-of-the-new-afro-brazilian-university-foreign-policy-innovation-and-south-south-cooperation/>.

⁵¹ Information provided by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency.

greatly to the success of the first country study mission of this mandate on human rights and international solidarity.

85. The Independent Expert commends the Government of Brazil for its policy and practice of solidarity that define its international cooperation programme in all its modalities, both in South-South and triangular cooperation contexts. She finds it remarkable how consistently solidarity was credited as the driving force of Brazilian cooperation, across all ministries and offices of Government she visited. More than simply solving problems, cooperation was seen as a dialogue between nations and peoples to address problems together, fostering equality and mutual respect.

86. The Independent Expert notes with admiration how Brazilian society is strongly attached to the values and principles of solidarity that are enshrined in its Constitution, and which have become the driving force in Brazil's international cooperation. Overcoming inequality and persistent poverty, along with the problems rooted in them, will require time and enormous effort on the part of the Government of Brazil and its people. These complex and interconnecting problems have spurred the Government to respond with numerous innovative and multifaceted programmes described in this report, designed to simultaneously address a number of concerns.

87. The Independent Expert has observed how these efforts to overcome tremendous difficulties are sustained by a strong sense of solidarity, the same spirit that has become the hallmark of Brazil's international cooperation initiatives and that has inspired others to reciprocate accordingly. Many of Brazil's problems endure, but many have also been overcome. Brazil deploys the lessons learned from both its triumphs and failures, to enrich its international cooperation strategies upon request, which its development partners have the free choice to adapt to their own context.

88. The international cooperation programme of Brazil described in this report in the fields of agriculture and food security, health, social protection and education, play an important role in creating a global impact towards the realization of human rights, the goal of international solidarity in development cooperation. The Independent Expert has observed how international solidarity in the case of Brazil emanates from the experience of the national Government in implementing its obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights within its own territories, and shared with international development partners.

89. The first country study mission of the Independent Expert that took place in Brazil has shown that international solidarity possesses instrumental value, while at the same time it is an end in itself. It has also supported the value of best practices as portals to the inherent interface between the policy and practice of international solidarity and the realization of human rights, and how such good practices of collective action on the ground—whether among individuals, groups of individuals or States – ineluctably lead to desirable outcomes towards the realization of human rights.