



# BRAZIL

**47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development**

**Statement by Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations**

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*(check against delivery)*



Madam Chair,

Please accept my congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development. I would like to extend to you and the Bureau the assurances of the full cooperation of the Brazilian delegation.

Brazil associates itself with the statements made by the Sudan, on behalf of G77 and China, as well as by Mexico, on behalf of the Rio Group.

This session of the Commission for Social Development will give us an important opportunity to debate and make progress in the agenda of social integration, taking into account its relation with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all. The Brazilian delegation is ready to contribute to this process, which includes the review of the programs and plans of action pertaining to the situation of older persons, youth and disabled persons.

In December 2007, Brazil hosted the Second Intergovernmental Regional Conference on Ageing, which provided an opportunity for a regional follow-up of the implementation of the Madrid Declaration and International Plan of Action. The resulting "Brasilia Declaration" reaffirmed the commitment of the participants to efforts to promote and protect the human rights of all aged persons and their fundamental freedoms as well as their determination to

eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against the elderly and to create protection nets to assure the effectiveness of their rights.

Brazil believes further progress in this direction is needed. During this session, the Commission could explore different possibilities, among which, for example, a request for a technical evaluation of the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur.

On what concerns the youth, Brazil supports the United Nations' initiative of a review of the World Program of Action for Youth in order to adjust its approach by incorporating the notion that young people are strategic agents in the promotion of economic and social development. The Program must also address the special vulnerability of young people to violence and, while considering the effects of the global crisis, must assess the impact of higher unemployment rates on youth and their integration in the labour market.

Brazil is of the view that the World Program of Action concerning Disabled Persons must include among its goals the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It must ensure the fulfilment of the basic human rights of persons with disabilities, such as accessibility, political participation, access to health, and education and participation in the labour market. The innovations contained in the Convention must be seen as an important step towards the full exercise of citizenship by persons with disabilities.

Madam Chair,

This year, the challenges before us are compounded by the impact of the global financial crisis on social development.

The greater the economic downturn the greater its social costs will be for developing countries. They were not in any way responsible for the current state of affairs, nor the sponsors of the economic policies and the economic thinking, which encouraged the lack of financial responsibility at the centre of the system. Nonetheless, the countries of the developing world, and the poorest within them, will most certainly be the ultimate victims of a prolonged global recession or depression. The UN should be highly concerned.

The consequences of a severe realignment to much lower levels of credit and liquidity are already being felt. We are seeing home foreclosures suffered by those, in the rich developed economies, unable to keep up with their mortgage payments. Banking failures and industry bankruptcy followed suit, leading to layoffs and unemployment in the most dynamic economies of the world. The crisis is deepening day-by-day, with the steep devaluation of financial assets, and, of particular concern to us, of those assets meant to take care of fundamental long-term public social objectives, such as: pension funds for the retired; social assistance and health care for the poor.

National budgets are being strained, as Governments devise bailout schemes and roll out stimulus packages -- at least the ones fortunate enough to be in a position to finance them, by spending reserves, issuing

debt, printing money or borrowing from others who worked hard to save during the preceding years.

The prospects for the developing world will be that international financing for development will dry up, as the major economies shrink, and private flows move away from the South, seeking safer, Government-guaranteed harbours in the North.

It must be said that financial globalization, even during the most prosperous years of the past, did not necessarily improve income distribution worldwide. We are still very far from meeting the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives. So, compounding the fate of those unable to ride the tide when prospects were good, they are now poised to be the hardest hit as the tide turns.

At the UN, our priority must be to reinforce mechanisms of social protection targeted towards the lower income segments of the population, particularly in the developing countries. We must reinforce international cooperation, and unite in a concerted effort to increase liquidity on unconditional terms, so that the poor and the disenfranchised can also be "bailed out" of this impending disaster.

The Brazilian delegation hopes that the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development may deepen the debate on these issues.

Before concluding, Madam Chair, let me say that Brazil fully supports the work carried out by UN Volunteers. We believe that volunteerism stimulates the development of values of citizenship and social responsibility and reinforces the ties between the volunteer and the community, thus contributing to enhance social integration.

Thank you.

