

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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PANEL 1: SAFE, COORDINATED AND INCLUSIVE HUMAN MOBILITY AS A RESPONSE TO THE RECOVERY OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Thank you, chair

First of all, let me congratulate you and the IOM for convening this year's International Dialogue on Migration, notwithstanding all the challenges the world faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brazil implemented restrictive measures on the entry of foreigners to curb the dissemination of the new coronavirus. These measures have contributed not to overburden the health services of the cities located in the border.

The recent re-opening of the air border, on the other hand, was possible because the Brazilian government strengthened sanitary actions and applied health protocols at airports.

Even with these restrictions in force, the Brazilian government quaranteed: the continuity of transportation, as well as associated jobs; delivery, and logistics of cargo in general, ensuring the supply of imported goods; family reunion; tourism by air; the implementation of cross-border humanitarian actions; and the movement of border residents, provided that the neighboring countries quarantees reciprocity treatment of Brazilians.

All the governmental agencies have cooperated to achieve a balance between restrictive measures and humanitarian needs. Lastly, due to the pandemic, "Operação Acolhida" had to be suspended, but it is not demobilized.

Thank you.

PANEL 2: PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MIGRANTS DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Chair,

Thank you once again for giving me the floor.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has managed to repatriate more than 27.300 nationals in vulnerable situations. In addition, it has provided institutional support for the return of another 11.500 Brazilians from bordering countries. After more than five months of uninterrupted work, around 38.800 Brazilians returned to Brazil.

Based on the different repatriation operations carried out, we observed that the main difficulties faced by Brazilian citizens retained abroad involved accommodation restrictions, domestic travel limitations, and lack of flight information on the part of airline companies.

In this sense, Brazil would like to offer some suggestions on how to strengthen the international regime of preparedness to deal with cross-border measures.

Therefore, Brazil suggests increasing the exchange of information between the health authorities of the neighboring countries through discussions about lessons learned in combating the pandemic and data sharing about the pandemic in the respective regions.

Moreover, technical cooperation should also be emphasized, especially between hospitals and health professionals from bordering cities. The borrowing equipment and the possibility of eventual attendance and treatment of foreigners can significantly reduce cases.

With the aim to strengthen institutional cooperation, Brazil believes it is important to foster high-level political meetings and diplomatic relationships between the authorities of the neighboring countries. This cooperation is essential to face common challenges, such as the repatriation of nationals, medical treatment for third-country nationals, and the planning of future health cooperation actions.

Thank you!