



BRAZIL

**Statement by H. E. Dilma Rousseff,
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil,
at the Inaugural Session
of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

New York, 24 September 2013

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Just over a year ago, at the Rio+20 Conference, we took a decisive step in the consolidation of the sustainable development agenda.

We reached consensus on the objective of building a model of development that contemplates, in a balanced manner, the economic, social and environmental dimensions. After Rio, the word “development” will never cease to be associated with the adjective “sustainable”.

We consolidated the notion -and this was an outcome of great value to the developing countries- that the eradication of poverty is “the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development”.

Poverty is not exclusively a problem of the developing countries, just as environmental protection is not a goal to be tackled only when poverty has been overcome.

Our task, now, is implement the commitments assumed.

That is why we are gathered here in this first session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which represents the materialization of one of the most important outcomes of Rio+20.

The Forum offers the international community a new multilateral governance architecture capable of responding to the great challenges of sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document attributed arduous tasks upon us. Among the Forum’s attributions are those of providing leadership, guidance, recommendations and technologies for sustainable

development. The goal is to assure the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. In order to do so, the Forum should also follow-up and analyze the progress achieved.

In considering the work that the Forum has before itself, we must be ambitious. We must rise to the expectations of our peoples.

We must be aware that, for the first time in the history of humanity, the complete and global eradication of extreme poverty is within our reach.

For Brazil, it is a goal we are already achieving with all those registered in the program "Brasil Without Extreme Poverty" (Brasil Sem Miséria). Now, through the active efforts of the Brazilian State, we will include the people still left out. We will support all the international initiatives led by the Forum. It is a goal that becomes an obligation.

The eradication of extreme poverty will represent a monumental achievement and an essential step in the sustainable development agenda.

We must guarantee that the High-level political Forum where hereinafter Heads of State and Government will meet, becomes a space where best practices are discussed and solutions found

We cannot waste this opportunity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil's presence here today is a reaffirmation of its commitment to advancing sustainable development.

A commitment expressed in its conduct in the context of Rio+20. Renewed in the work of implementing the Conference's results and in building a United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

A commitment that is based in its domestic policies, which support and confer legitimacy to the Country's external actions on the matter. I highlight, as examples, our fight against deforestation, our renewable energy matrix, our sustainable agricultural practices.

In the social field, we have developed technology for inclusion that is characterized by the elimination of the intermediary between the citizen and the State, by means of a credit card. There is no contradiction between growing and including, protecting and conserving.

We are promoting our economy's growth with advances in social justice. We are creating formal jobs and assuring the expansion of workers' incomes. We are better distributing income in order to end extreme poverty and reduce poverty, with public policies directed at improving education, health, public safety and all the public services provided by the Brazilian State.

We are committed to advancing this process of transforming Brazil while having environmental sustainability as an indispensable condition. This commitment to environmental protection is reflected, for example, in the fact that we are, according to the United Nations, the country that has done the most in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Esteemed colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a great responsibility as senior authorities: a responsibility towards our fellow-citizens and to the future generations.

The magnitude of the challenges ahead requires determination, courage and boldness from us. I call upon all: let us face these challenges together and head-on. This is the path to the future we want.

Thank you.