

**Speech by Minister Izabella Teixeira during the Climate
Convention**

5 December 2012 – Doha, Qatar

Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the People and Government of Brazil, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to the People and Government of Qatar for hosting the 2012 United Nations Conference on Climate Change.

Brazil strongly supports the multilateral process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. We believe that a crucial global challenge such as climate change can only be dealt with effectively through a multilateral response that brings all countries together, big or small, and gives each a voice.

Brazil was honored to host the RIO+20 Conference last June and trusts that the negotiation of the Durban Platform, aiming at the definition of a new phase of the international climate change regime, under UNFCCC, in parallel with the several processes launched in Rio, shall positively impact public policies for sustainable development in the years ahead.

Brazil expects the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to fully implement the landmark decisions achieved in Durban. In Doha, we must successfully conclude the Bali Road Map, through the finalization of the work of the "Ad hoc" Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and of the "Ad hoc"

Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

Our main task in Doha is to formally adopt the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is our greatest asset to ensure a strong climate change regime. Quantified emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties must be adopted here, by means of fully ratifiable amendments to the Protocol, and they must be implemented from 1st January 2013. This will ensure the continuity of the multilaterally agreed rules-based system, through strict rules and institutions that ensure the environmental integrity of mitigation by Annex I countries under the Protocol.

Our work on long-term cooperative action must also be concluded. We have achieved much under the AWG-LCA, but there are still important issues to be finalized. Successful completion of the agreed outcome in Doha, together with the decisions from Cancun and Durban, will help elevate national and global efforts, both in mitigation and adaptation. It will also complete the institutional infrastructure for the operationalization of financial, technology and capacity-building support for enhanced actions by developing countries.

Bringing to a close the two-track negotiation process initiated in Bali will, on the one hand, enhance immediate implementation of actions and, on the other, provide a sound foundation for the strengthening of the regime and the increase of ambition, under the Convention, through the Durban Platform.

We are moving to a new phase in the climate change regime. A new phase that will strengthen even further the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, and allow for higher levels of engagement by all Parties.

The negotiation of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention, applicable to all Parties, will be a key process for the future of the regime. Such a process, however, will need to build upon on progress we achieve now.

Brazil is dedicating its best efforts to make this Conference a success and to ensure that this regime is effective. We will continue to negotiate in a constructive spirit, with a view to achieve the convergence and mutual understanding that is needed to produce positive outcomes through an optimistic political context which leads to concrete action.

Mr President,

Brazil has moved to new ground, since 2004, both in relation to its economic growth and to the management of its forests. The country is achieving a fairer and more balanced development, without giving up the conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources.

Brazil's national voluntary commitment to mitigate climate change is reflected through the country's consistent reduction of emissions from land use and forestry. It is also reflected in the creation and enactment of its National Policy

on Climate Change, which provides for Sectoral Plans on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.

These Plans relate to several sectors of the economy, such as industry, agriculture and energy, and are in the final stages of the political decision making process. All of these sectoral plans have been constructed in a participative manner, with contributions from civil society. They aim at ensuring the achievement of Brazil's national voluntary commitment to cut emissions between 36.1% and 38.9% by 2020, informed to the UNFCCC after COP 15, in December 2009.

The Plans to Prevent and Control Deforestation both in the Amazon and in the Brazilian Savannah (Cerrado) biomes are contributing to considerable and consistent mitigation results. The 2012 illegal deforestation rate dropped by approximately 27% in comparison to the same period in 2011. The deforestation rate in the legally-defined Brazilian Amazon for the 2011-2012 period was four thousand six hundred and fifty square kilometers (4.650 km), in comparison to six thousand, four hundred and eighteen square kilometers (6.418 km) observed in the previous year. It is the largest cut in deforestation since 2004, and comparatively represents an 83% drop, considering that, at that time, deforestation was twenty-seven thousand, seven hundred and seventy two square kilometers (27.772 km).

This is indeed good news! The Brazilian strategy to tackle the causes of deforestation is comprehensive and crosscutting. It ranges from diverse monitoring systems of the Amazon forest cover, to oversight, concessions and forest management operations, and the creation, between

2004 and 2010, of 50 million hectares of federal and state protected areas.

Mr President,

In addition to these efforts, the Brazilian Government has developed other national instruments, such as the Climate Change Fund and the Amazon Fund, dedicated to the financing of activities and projects that are effectively contributing to the implementation of a mitigation and adaptation agenda in the country.

The Amazon Fund, underway since 2008 , has currently 47 projects under assessment in its portfolio, with a possibility of being approved before the end of 2012, totaling some BRL 685 million, the equivalent of over USD 340 million, on top of the USD 130 million utilized last year.

We believe the Amazon Fund is also an instrument with good potential to promote South-South cooperation, and one example is the US\$20 million to be provided for monitoring deforestation in the Member-Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

Brazil trusts that the Amazon Fund will continue to receive new and additional financial contributions, consistent with the mitigation efforts conducted by the country that may provide valuable support to the implementation of sustainable development through on-the-ground initiatives in the Amazon biome, in other Brazilian biomes and in other tropical countries.

This national effort does not eliminate or minimize the need for the main source of funding to support developing countries' actions on climate change to come from developed countries' official development assistance.

Mr President,

In addition to these environmental programmes, I would like to highlight the recent Green Settlement Program created to prevent and combat illegal deforestation, to eradicate poverty and to promote environmentally friendly alternatives in the Amazon region. The Program's initial goal is to support 980 settlement projects with a total area of 21 million hectares in 199 municipalities, reaching 190 thousand families.

Brazil has some 5.2 million rural properties occupying a 330 million hectares which must be entered in the Rural Environmental Registry according to the new forest code requirements. Out of this total, 4.4 million properties (80 million ha) belong to small farmers or 24% of the total agricultural area. The other 80% of this area belongs to the medium and large landowners. It is important to address the environmental, social and economic inequalities in rural areas.

The challenge of recovering deforested and degraded areas in Brazil must not lead to new forms of social and environmental exclusion of the small landowner. We must find innovative ways to address food production, sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of biological diversity, considering the

essential environmental services for a new economy of sustainability.

The implementation of this set of laws and regulations represents a significant CO₂ removal from the atmosphere as these promote the gradual increase of forest cover, with an estimated recovery of some 25 million ha in degraded areas in rural properties throughout the country.

Mr President,

I am confident that our journey of crafting effective multilateral solutions to address climate-change will continue to move on solid ground and gain momentum in the coming years. It is in our call to respond to the many urgent challenges that surface from climate change. Brazil is fully committed to finding effective and concrete solutions to these challenges through the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, which are the fundamental instruments to tackle climate change.

Thank you.