

Speech by H.E. Minister Izabella Teixeira

at the Lima Climate Change Conference (COP 20/CMP 10)

December 10th , 2014

Mr. President,

Honourable Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the People and of the Government of Brazil, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to the People and Government of Peru for hosting the 2014 Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is a great honor and a privilege to take part in a COP in an Amazonian country.

The fact that we meet in Peru, in a developing country, in an Amazonian country that shares this amazingly rich and varied biome both in human and natural resources reinforces the urgency of crafting an international consensus to give a strong and affirmative response to the global climate crisis.

In Warsaw, Parties approved a solid framework for results based payments for REDD+ activities and a Mechanism to address loss and damages due to the adverse impacts of climate change. In Lima, we must pave the way for an equitable, ambitious and effective legally binding agreement under the Convention, applicable to all Parties, to be adopted in Paris, next year.

Brazil remains fully committed to the global efforts to combat climate change, elaborating and conducting ambitious initiatives to reduce emissions from its own territory and acting jointly with the global community in order to secure a successful outcome of ongoing international negotiations.

Over the last few years, we have undertaken efforts to fulfill our voluntary emission reduction actions, announced in 2009, in

Copenhagen. Nine nationwide plans are being implemented covering key sectors of our economy, including low carbon agriculture, energy, industry and public health. Financing mechanisms are in place to promote innovation, dissemination of knowledge and new technologies. Last week, the Amazon deforestation rate for the period 2013/2014 was announced: a reduction of 18% was reported in relation to the previous period. In the last four years, sustained efforts to combat deforestation in the Amazon have allowed us to achieve the four lowest annual deforestation rates in twenty-five years of forest monitoring in my country.

Brazil is poised to fulfill its NAMAs and to cut emissions by 2020 between 36.1% and 38.9% in relation to BAU. Brazil has set in Law ambitious voluntary goals such as reducing by 80% illegal deforestation in the Amazon by 2020, a significantly higher target than what was included in a recent voluntary declaration on forests. The country is also promoting the integration of farming, cattle ranching and forests and is responsible for the largest tropical forest protected areas program in the world, ARPA. The Brazilian Government committed to creating 60 million hectares of protected areas in the Amazon Region by 2020, in the context of the successful conclusion of ARPA's third replenishment, earlier this year. We expect nevertheless to achieve this target which covers exclusively natural protected areas, by the end of next year. In addition, Brazil is provisioned with high quality knowledge and action capabilities on climate risk management including effective early-warning systems and sector-wide adaptation strategies.

My country envisions the challenges associated with climate change as a comprehensive effort that must involve all sectors of society and of the Government. From now on, we must focus our efforts towards implementation.

Mr President,

Not only have deforestation rates been significantly reduced by 82% over the last ten years, but recent data indicates that we are also verifying substantial forest recovery rates. That means that Brazil has ceased to emit 650 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, a significant and voluntary contribution towards the global reduction of emissions.

Our satellite monitoring systems indicate that 23% of historically deforested areas in the Brazilian Amazon Region are under regeneration. These areas under regeneration represent two and a half times the total area which was deforested from 2008 to 2012.

Our ambition and determination to actively combat climate change goes beyond our borders. Brazil is cooperating with its Amazon neighbours in order to strengthen national capacities to monitor and combat deforestation and is working towards building similar South-South cooperation initiatives with the Congo Basin countries.

Mr. President,

Honourable Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new agreement under the Convention must be universal, ambitious and legally binding, while respecting the principles and provisions enshrined in the UNFCCC. In order to achieve the 2°C goal, the agreement must be robust, covering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, to the level deemed necessary to support developing countries achieving their full potential.

Differentiation between developed and developing countries is absolutely essential to ensure the global level of ambition required to keep temperature increase below an agreed threshold. Brazil has brought to Lima innovative proposals, with the intent of building consensus. While enhanced ambition is expected from all Parties, we must ensure that previous commitments are safeguarded and that developed countries are taking the lead in the global effort against climate change, while allowing developing countries to gradually assume further obligations, in accordance with their development circumstances.

The “concentric differentiation” approach proposed by Brazil aims to ensure universal participation and promotes a continuous and sustained

global effort towards increasing ambition and holding the global average temperature below 2 C, while fully respecting the principles, provisions, structure and achievements of the Convention.

"Self-differentiation" is not an option: it would neither be fair nor reasonable to expect developing countries to assume further obligations, while at the same time reducing the level of ambition expected from developed countries. Brazil has been doing its fair share and is ready and willing to contribute even more to the global effort against climate change. We call upon developed countries to live up to their responsibilities before the international community and to the legitimate aspirations of global civil society.

Furthermore, we must overcome the logic that preventing climate change negatively impacts the economy. Actions to reduce emissions and to foster adaptation must be considered a source of wealth, as they attract investments and warrant new initiatives of sustainable development. As the primary international forum to address climate change, the Convention should develop the ways and means to recognise and promote the social value of mitigation and adaptation actions. Developing countries' mitigation and adaptation efforts, in particular, must be fully recognised and rewarded if we are to enhance action under the Convention.

Brazil proposes , under work stream 2, the recognition of the social and economic value intrinsic to mitigation activities. To translate the results of early and additional action into units of convertible financial value that could be used to back further sustainable development investments thus establishing a positive forward looking process. This is another concrete proposal that we hope may contribute to closing the ambition gap before 2020 and to support further ambition beyond that date.

We must continue to encourage, at all times, the highest possible level of engagement and ambition in these negotiations by all Parties. It is only by doing so that we will be able to welcome the new phase in the climate change regime, that effectively tackles this crucial global challenge.

Thank you