



**Remarks of President Dilma Rousseff
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil**

COP21 Leaders Event

Paris, France

1:00pm 30 November 2015

(Live Interpretation from Portuguese)

Mr. Laurent Fabius, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France and President of the 21st Conference of Parties;

Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of State, Heads of Government;

Ladies and Gentlemen at large;

May I first of all voice my solidarity, and that of all Brazilians, to the families, the people, and the Government of France.

Brazil condemns terrorism wherever it may occur and whatever its ultimate motivation may be.

Mr. President, climate change is not an unknown problem to Brazilians. We have faced droughts in the Northeastern region, plus rains and floods in the Southern and Southeastern regions. The El Niño phenomenon has hit us hard. The irresponsible action of one company recently caused the biggest environmental disaster in the history of Brazil in the large Rio Doce river basin. We are currently responding to the disaster with measures aimed at damage control, support to the affected populations, and prevention of new incidents, while severely punishing those who caused this tragedy.

Climate change resulting from human action is one of the biggest global challenges of current times. We are gathered here, Heads of State and Heads of Government, to overcome it, which requires a sense of urgency, unity and courage to make new choices and take new actions. Engagement and political leadership are required to sketch out new paths in our efforts against a problem that affects us all. It is in that spirit that we are gathered here in Paris to build a joint response, one that will only be effective if it is collective and fair.

The best way to build joint and common solutions to common problems is our ability to unite around a fair, balanced, ambitious and lasting agreement; one that will limit the increase in the average global temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius. To that end, we must establish an agreement that is essentially and basically legally-binding in nature. Our agreement cannot merely be the sum of everyone's best intentions. The agreement will set the paths and the commitments in which we will engage so as to together overcome the planet-wide challenge of global warming.

In view of the fact that emissions have by definition been cumulative in nature, actions to mitigate greenhouse gas effects should be followed in parallel by adaptation measures in developing countries, particularly in the most vulnerable countries. The means for implementation of the new agreement, i.e.

financing, technology transfer, and capacity building should ensure that all countries will have the wherewithal, the necessary conditions, to achieve our common objective.

The principle of common but differentiated responsibility is the cornerstone of the proposed agreement. Far from weakening our efforts to tackle climate change, differentiation is a condition to its global effectiveness. The Paris agreement should therefore provide the conditions that will ensure that all developing countries can walk the path of the low-carbon economy while overcoming extreme poverty and reducing inequalities. It is therefore very important for this conference provide unmistakable decisions on the relevant means of implementation.

The path of our commitment leads to what we have termed 'convergence'. The kind of convergence that will progressively bring together the obligations of all countries. To that end, the proposed five-year review mechanism is needed.

The Brazilian government and society are playing their part. In the course of the past decade, the deforestation rates in the Amazon region fell by about 80%. Our efforts to tackle illegal deforestation in the Amazon region now have a new standard of action with the adoption of the national REDD+ strategy, meaning that Brazil already meets all requirements set under the climate convention to qualify for this mechanism.

We have also implemented low-carbon agriculture, and we continue our efforts to further expand the share of renewable sources in our national energy mix. Our INDC, Brazil's intended nationally-determined contribution, is to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 vis-à-vis the 2005 baseline. This is an absolute reduction goal for the whole economy. It is quite certainly a very ambitious goal, and goes way beyond our actual share of responsibility for the increase in the average global temperature. From that point onwards, we will move towards zero illegal deforestation in the Amazon region and we will offset the emissions from legal clearance of vegetation. Our challenge consists of restoring and reforesting 12 million hectares of forests and another 15 million hectares of degraded pasture lands. Furthermore, all sources of renewable energy will have their place and share in our expanded energy mix until such time as, by 2030, we reach 45% in renewables.

We are progressively evolving towards the intended de-carbonization of our economy. This will take place under the imperative of poverty eradication and the pursuit of decent labor. Tackling climate change also requires an active engagement of local governments, civil society, businesses and academia. The contribution of rural communities and of indigenous peoples is vital. We are, after all, talking about deep, sweeping changes in productions and consumption standards; hence the huge opportunities that now emerge for developing new technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen, COP21, I am quite certain, will stand as an historic milestone in our efforts to build what is proposed in the 2030 agenda as a 'developed and inclusive world'. It is therefore just fair that the city of Paris, the stage of major transformations in the history of humankind in the past few centuries, is the city to host this conference. It is absolutely fair that the city of Paris will lend its name to an agreement that will unite humankind in the un-postponable task of overcoming climate change, a challenge that does affect life and also humankind throughout the planet.

Thank you very much.
