



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

Statement by Mr. Ricardo Salles, Minister of the Environment of Brazil,  
on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)

22 May 2020

Theme: “Our solutions are in nature”

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to deliver a message on behalf of the Brazilian government and thus contribute to the International Day for Biological Diversity. I would also like to reiterate our commitment towards producing a robust new Global Biodiversity Framework, despite the additional and unforeseen challenges posed by the current pandemic. It is a great honor for Brazil to be part of this event.

Brazil is proud to be one of the most megabiodiverse countries and our environmental heritage plays a crucial role not only in our identity and culture, but is also fundamental to our economy. Dealing properly with nature is a priority in our country, and we do so bearing in mind the double challenge that we face: to protect our precious biomes while ensuring that complex social issues, such as unemployment, creation of economic opportunities, poverty alleviation, and food security are also being addressed. Caring of our environment, taking into account its ecological, social and economic dimensions, is the backbone of our development process. Our country has the vastest area of native vegetation on the planet – which accounts for over 60% of our national territory – and counts on dynamic and sustainable industrial and agricultural sectors, supported by a clean energy matrix.

We reaffirm our engagement in the current negotiations, always in the spirit of global partnership and international solidarity, recognizing the common but differentiated responsibilities between countries in dealing with the environment. We remain strongly committed to implementing the three objectives of the Convention and are fully interested in strengthening CBD and its post-2020 Biodiversity Framework through a balanced and integrated approach in all its dimensions – conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. We therefore strongly support policy coherence and a just transition in the post-2020 framework, ensuring that no one is left behind while everyone is equally engaged.

The Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework will have to take into account the unpredictable effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy, particularly in developing countries. We expect one of Brazil’s worst economic crises in history,



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with increasing poverty and unemployment, and worsening of already precarious standards of housing and sanitation in certain regions, in particular in the Amazon, a region with one of the lowest Human Development Indexes (HDI) in the country.

Nature is the basis for sustenance for the majority of the world's population. It will not be possible to establish an adequate relationship between health and environment and halt biodiversity loss if billions of people face hunger and lack of decent housing and sanitation. We can no longer turn a blind eye to the discrepancies of development levels and living standards between developed and developing countries and the pressure that is placed on biodiversity and on the poor due to climate change deriving from the indiscriminate use of fossil fuels.

Brazil is of the opinion that the CBD has a crucial role in promoting the sustainable transition to a better world. We will continue to engage in discussions to ensure robust financial resources, the full implementation of compensation arrangements with developing countries through benefit sharing and new, innovative mechanisms such as payment to those who provide environmental services to the world in the post-2020 period. Weaving the need for development with the importance of conserving the biodiversity, including recognizing the contributions of peoples on the ground, should give rise to more effective and market-friendly approaches. Innovative market-driven financial mechanisms should be encouraged to emerge and operate under this more dynamic and effective perspective, creating direct links between environmental service providers and consumers across the globe.

This is the only way that balance, in the years to come, can be achieved for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

**Ricardo de Aquino Salles**  
Minister of the Environment