



**73a Sessão do Comitê Executivo  
Alo Commissariado das Nações Unidas para Refugiados  
Item 3.A - Debate Geral**

**10 -14 de outubro de 2022**

Mr. President,

Mr. High Commissioner,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we have been witnessing mounting woes of forced displacement, people of concern to UNHCR, member states and other stakeholders have availed themselves of the firm support of this Agency. In this unstable international context, cooperation and solidarity are key for sustained and comprehensive humanitarian responses.

Despite advances, the lingering social and economic effects of the COVID-19 still demand comprehensive responses at the local, national, regional and global levels, as it continues to have a devastating impact on refugees and other vulnerable groups.

In Brazil, cooperation and solidarity have become cornerstones of 'Operation Welcome' – the government-led, multi-sector and multi-agency taskforce that coordinates the Brazilian response to the unprecedented flow of Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

Since 2018, over 770,000 Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have received some sort of assistance from "Operation Welcome", and around 400 Venezuelans, mostly women and children, are still crossing the border to

our country every day. Upon arrival, special attention is given to indigenous, elderly, women, children and people with disabilities.

The more than 375,000 Venezuelans who have decided to stay in Brazil have full access to all public services, the labor market and social benefits, on an equal basis with our nationals. That also includes access to health, including mental health and psychosocial support, to all migrants and refugees, regardless of their migratory status, as part of a bigger strategy of preventive measures and extensive immunization.

The humanitarian response is well established, but it is not fully sustainable. We estimate that approximately 400 million dollars have been spent for the set-up of the Operation since 2018, and that 50 million dollars are directed annually by the Brazilian national budget to the assistance of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Brazil, without considering dispersed costs related to public services and social benefits. But mobilization of resources, both domestically and internationally, and from different stakeholders, remains key to ensuring that we can continue to exert solidarity towards our Venezuelan brothers and sisters.

In order to promote the transition between emergency assistance and effective reception and integration, the Operation has implemented the "interiorization" strategy, supporting the voluntary relocation of more than 80,000 migrants and refugees to over 870 Brazilian cities, where they find better job opportunities and social integration.

Protection wise, the National Committee for Refugees has adopted innovative procedures to facilitate the 'en bloc' recognition of more than 46,000 Venezuelan refugees, within the framework of the Cartagena Declaration. Brazil hosts today the largest number of formally recognized Venezuelan refugees in the Americas, of more than 51,000 people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since 2018, more than 6 million Venezuelans have left their country, and more than 5 million remain in neighboring countries of Latin-American and the Caribbean. To respond to this unprecedented challenge, the Quito Process – a regional informal coordination mechanism, now in its fourth year of

existence – has advanced on exchanging best practices and coordinating initiatives, consolidating our region as a space of solidarity and inclusion.

Brazil is currently presiding over the Quito Process, and we have recently hosted its 8th Plenary Meeting. During our presidency, we have focused on strengthening partnerships, not only between countries facing a common challenge, but also between governments, civil society and international organizations working towards the same goal. We are confident that the next Chilean presidency will make further progress to persevere in these goals.

Brazil has also looked overseas, granting protection, to Afghans and Ukrainians through our humanitarian visa policy. This policy has also benefited Haitians and people affected by the conflict in Syria. They are an expression of Brazil's unshakable commitment to human rights and international solidarity and stands as an important complementary pathway that saves lives.

We would like to stress that our actions should be oriented to safeguard the most vulnerable, including women, girls and people with disabilities, by the respect of human rights, and by the non-acceptance of any forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. By reaffirming the principle of shared responsibilities, we invite the international community to find similar solutions and protection policies, joining the efforts led by UNHCR for an all-embracing worldwide humanitarian assistance.

Brazil stands ready to actively contribute to this effort.

Thank you!