

Delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil
Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council

The issues before the Economic and Social Council in this session are: Education in Post-Conflict Situations, the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) and Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Brazil is looking forward to this session and is glad to announce a new era of Brazilian politics with the inauguration of Jair Bolsonaro.

I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations

Africa has the lowest secondary school enrolment worldwide – only 28% of the respective children receive secondary education, according to the Brookings Institution. A lack of secondary education is a proven hindrance to economic growth – skilled workers are lacking and millions of children will have to make a living with low paid jobs. Post-conflict countries are often too focussed on improving one aspect of secondary education which is impeding the over-all progress. The World Bank has identified a triple approach of “expanding access, improving quality and ensuring equity” as the pillars for efficiently improving secondary education. Many countries are working on improving one of these pillars with the help of the United Nations Organization for Education Science and Culture (UNESCO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). However, there is no specific joint approach by African countries in combining or exchanging efficient educational approaches, or already working pillars on a regular basis yet.

Deeply convinced that Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, stating that everyone has a right to education, also revisited in Article 28 of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* (A/RES/44/25) of 1989, must be implemented, Brazil is concerned about the current adherence to both. Recalling goal four – quality education – of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by resolution 70/1 (2015) of the General Assembly, Brazil emphasizes its firm commitment to achieving it until 2030. We welcome that the *Agenda 2063*, adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2013 to achieve the Africa We Want, defines education as a necessity for reaching all other goals. We therefore commend the Pan-African High-level Conference on Education in 2018 organized by the Government of Kenya, UNESCO and the African Union. Brazil welcomes the commitment of the African states to improving education and more specifically the exchange of knowledge between the participating states – effective education models in one country might also work in other countries.

Brazil suggests establishing a high-level task force for coordinating the regular exchange of educational approaches for secondary education amongst African countries to further the collaboration of these countries on implementing new educational models. The task force would host a conference once a year – like the Pan-African High-level Conference on Education – in order to give the countries a platform for knowledge sharing. The task force will work closely together with the AU, which we kindly ask to provide its headquarters in Addis Ababa as a conference site. Between the conferences the task force will assist the countries in their joint realization efforts by giving advice and being a contact partner, their headquarters will be in New York City, USA. Annually, the task force will provide the ECOSOC with a report on their ongoing work and its efficiency. Members of the task force will be two experts each from the already existing UN education organisations, such as the UNESCO, UNICEF, UNGEI and UNDP. Additionally, we invite NGOs to join the task force.

II. Implementing SDG 7:
Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

In the last years, the international community made headway regarding the implementation of SDG 7: in 2016, 87% of the global population had access to electricity compared to 78% in 2000 – due to the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), amongst others. But still, large deficits are visible as 1 billion people worldwide are without access to electricity, especially in poor and developing countries. Often, poor countries rely on biomass-derived energy, thereby creating high carbon dioxide emissions, in rural areas energy is not accessible. Moreover, 3 billion people are still using fuel and stove combinations for cooking – also detrimental to the environment. The recent years saw a major increase in research on renewable and sustainable energy, but innovative outcomes are often very expensive. A combination of research on clean and less expensive energy and an international approach is non-existent, though clean and cheap energy would benefit all.

Emphasizing its commitment for achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) by 2030, established by General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), Brazil urges the international community to fulfil its obligation. Recalling the *Paris Agreement* of December 12, 2015, we stress the importance of adhering to clean and sustainable energy when trying to implement SDG 7. Noting with high appreciation the efforts undertaken by former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to establish the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) initiative in 2011, we urge the international community to seek advice from the initiative in order to achieve quick change. Fully aware of General Assembly resolution 72/224 (2017), which calls on all Member States to improve the electricity access rate, we especially emphasize section 20 and 21, which specify the need for more market strategies for reducing costs of renewable sources and – most importantly – for more research in this field.

Brazil proposes to establish the United Nations Research Institute for Sustainable Energy (UNRISE) for conducting research in the field of sustainable and renewable energy. Its focus will be on finding a solution to make energy production cheaper and suitable for rural areas, while still being sustainable and renewable. The director of UNRISE shall be appointed by the Secretary General following a proposal by the board of UNRISE. The board is to be appointed by the ECOSOC. Its task is to make exchange of research possible, to connect and reach out to scientists and researchers worldwide, as well as to financing stakeholders – the board shall thus provide the ECOSOC with a quarterly report. UNRISE shall be financed by voluntary funds of the international community, its headquarters will be in Geneva, Switzerland. We invite SEforALL and UNDP to assist UNRISE in connecting research with actual implementation and finances and stakeholders.

III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz of 2018 shows that specifically isolated and initial contact tribes are threatened by illegal miners and loggers, often combined with organized crime such as drug trafficking or prostitution, commonest in Peru and Colombia. More importantly, illegal mining and logging prevents the affected governments from profiting from the respective land. This is not a Latin-American only problem; countries are affected worldwide. Though some countries – including Brazil – want to make mining and logging in indigenous reserves legal, the aspect of illegality is a threat to national security because of its connection to other crimes and also hinders national economic growth. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO), governments lose between \$10 billion to \$15 billion per year because of lost tax revenues for the resources. Nevertheless, there is no commission or agency within the UN system focussing only on that problem in combination with the initiation of criminal prosecution.

Fully aware that the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 (2000) calls on the international community to collaborate on prosecuting transnational organized crime, we emphasize that illegal mining and logging is an increasing constituent of transnational organized crime, though not specifically mentioned in the convention. We value the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), working on the basis of this convention. Noting with deep concern illegal logging and mining is connected to major threats to security and peace, as was pointed out in the *The Rise of Environmental Crime Report* (2016) by Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Brazil urges the international community to become active in prosecuting illegal logging and mining. Commending the strengthened collaboration of Interpol and UNEP determined in resolution 71/19 (2016) of the General Assembly, Brazil is convinced that this approach is a good starting point for reducing illegal logging and mining.

Brazil recommends launching a Commission on Anti-Mining and Logging (CAML), focussing on tracking down illegal miners and loggers worldwide. CAML shall work closely together with Interpol because once CAML manages to locate a criminal, Interpol would have to contact the respective country, in order to issue an international arrest warrant. The respective country is then responsible for the arrest and trial of the criminal. CAML shall be constituted of experts on international crime and illegal miners and loggers, appointed by the ECOSOC. Experts of FAO, UNDOC and UNEP shall be in the commission, too. Furthermore, we urge the international community to deploy experts, as they contribute the country-specific knowledge. Headquarters will be in Vienna, Austria, funding will rely on voluntary contributions by the international community as well as private donors. The commission shall report quarterly to the ECOSOC and keep national ministries of justice updated.