

Delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil
Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The issues before the United Nations General Assembly are Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development and Disaster Risk Reduction. The issues at hand can be addressed in an interconnected manner and a constructive dialogue will lead to betterment for all members of the global society. The Federative Republic of Brazil looks forward to contributing to a forward-looking process.

I. Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development

On the 10th of February 2022, the right to protection of personal data was enshrined as fundamental right in the constitution of Brazil. “Information flies at the speed of light, and new technologies, such as revolutionary artificial intelligence, are able to predict and describe collective and individual behaviors and interests with great precision.”, stated Rodrigo Pacheco, President of the Brazilian Senate. This speed and precision are at the center of Brazil’s efforts to employ ICTs as effective as possible. ICTs are to be understood as the tool to elevate society and economy into a new and shared level of prosperity. In 2020 the Brazilian Information and Communication Technology market was ranked ninth in the world with an estimated value of 49.5 billion US-Dollars with continued growth for the coming years. In October 2021 Brazil held its 5G spectrum auction and raised approximately 8.5 billion US-Dollars. A number that pales in comparison to the possible 1.2 trillion US-Dollars of economic impact the enrolment of these ICTs could have and an increase in productivity of 3 trillion US-Dollars by 2035 according to a study conducted by Nokia and Omida. By 2025 Brazil will be among the five largest markets in the world for smartphones. In combination with modern legislation Brazil aims to lead in the implementation of ICTs to enable and sustain economic and financial development worldwide. Of crucial importance for equal global development is connecting everyone as today we are far from this important landmark. Establishing working 5G networks for all in need is to be the groundwork for this. By being unable to connect members of the global community are being left behind. Equal development will enable further equal partnership in the international community and help to prepare for the road ahead of humankind.

The Federative Republic of Brazil aims to pursue the use of ICTs for sustainable economic and financial development in spirit of the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) accepted by the General Assembly via the Resolution 70/1 (2015). Central for the implementation is the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) of 2015 as it outlines financing for development. Along the AAAA the *2030 Agenda* is understood to be central to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth. SDG 9 with the aim to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” and SDG 8 to “promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth” should form central pillars for future actions to be decided upon. The *World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021 Outcome Report* provides the basis for a continued interconnected process to further ICTs along the goals of the SDGs. To be understood in combination with the *WSIS Outcome Report* are the *Katowice Internet Governance Forum Messages* of 2021 as it provides important incentives for guidelines to get ICTs in place where they are needed the most and can have the biggest and long-lasting effects. As example for the aim of “connecting everyone to the Internet by 2030” outlined by Secretary General António Guterres in his speech for the 16th Internet Governance Forum Brazil wants to highlight its 5G auctions and connected buildout obligations to function as example for other members of the international community.

Brazil proposes furthering the effective enrolment of ICTs to enable stable and equal economic growth. To effectively enable such growth a panel is proposed that will draw up guidelines for the establishment of working digital infrastructure worldwide. Such a panel should be made up of industry leaders that have the capabilities and knowhow to supply the needed technology and by the members of the international community that want to aid the process. Finally, members planning to participate in the process need to be involved so that local interests can be addressed. The Federative Republic of Brazil offers to chair and host the first meetings of this body in 2023, given the need to act quickly. After the first meetings, a regular rotation of the chairmanship must be agreed.

II. Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters are an ever-present risk to the life of humans worldwide. Over the last years these risks have become more ubiquitous and wide reaching in their effects. The Federative Republic of Brazil views these with great concern and calls to action to further *Disaster Risk Reduction* (DRR) to ensure equal and sustainable development for all. As part of the *Making Cities Resilient 2030* (MCR2030), the city of Campinas has become one of the first three cities in the Americas and the Caribbean region to be recognized as “Resilience Hubs” in 2021. These exemplary cities are noteworthy and have been rewarded for addressing disaster risk, developing, and implementing DRR strategies. This shows the effect of initiatives such as the MCR2030 in inspiring and furthering local action. Such examples can and will provide ideas, motivation, and inspiration worldwide but also locally to engage in a competition for the betterment for all. With the new *ABC Plus – Brazil’s New Climate Change Adaption and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture Plan* that encapsulates work towards making the Brazilian agriculture more sustainable and resilient, the Brazilian Governments demonstrates its ambitious and leading actions in raising and addressing DRR. Repeated floods and landslides are a continuous danger to the inhabitants of Brazil and worldwide. Addressing these dangers as they destroy livelihood, economy, and take human lives is the main concern of the Federative Republic of Brazil. The introduction of the Flood Mapping Tool (FMT) in 2021 as tool to map and predict floods is to be understood as a steppingstone in this process. Making human settlements and agriculture resilient to these events or even preempting their occurrence should be the aims of the current session.

Central to future efforts to further expand DRR is the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* adopted in General Assembly Resolution 69/283 in 2015. Of importance for actions with the aim of DRR in mind is the *New Urban Agenda*, adopted in General Assembly Resolution 71/256 in 2016, and the United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) adopted in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 in 2015. Concerning efforts of DRR, SDG 11’s goal to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable” is of integral importance and interconnected to General Assembly Resolution 70/472 (2015). General Assembly Resolutions 75/216 (2020), 76/240 (2021), and 76/204 (2022) are central to continued tracking and overview of the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. As exemplary case studies the reports of the *Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery* (GFDRR) in collaboration with the *World Bank on Options for Disaster Risk Financing* as such actions are among the most effective ones in protecting people and economy from damage. The *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* of 2021 as *Special Report on Drought* elaborates on the inherent importance of addressing disaster as part of SDG 11, 13 “Climate Action”, and 15 “Life on Land”. Working along these interconnected issues the new *ABC Plus – Brazil’s New Climate Change Adaption and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture Plan* is an example of how such feats can be accomplished nationally whilst remaining aware of local needs and specialties.

The Federative Republic of Brazil proposes a preventive and adaptive approach. The use of technologies such as FMT will play a central role in such an approach. The use of existing tools and support for further development and improvement will enable more reliable flood forecasts. These forecasts will then be used to identify flood-prone areas while estimating possible flooding patterns and damages. Adapting local living conditions, from how and where people live to how economies adapt to be resilient to such events, will save lives and livelihoods. The introduction of urban settlements as “sponge cities” can and should be pursued if needed. Gathering information about possible flooding is an objective that can be achieved rather than early warning systems, although these should not be disregarded. Combining such preventive measures with disaster risk financing to reduce economic losses is crucial. The Federative Republic of Brazil intends to promote the establishment of a development panel to support technologies such as FMT and to disseminate this information to those who are not yet aware of it, as well as to introduce recommended measures. The body should be composed of researchers and governments. Brazil intends to establish such a body as soon as possible with the support of the General Assembly. The first objectives of the panel should be to take stock of the tools available to streamline and centralize information processing. Any steps beyond that are to be decided within the body and its future supporters.