

Delegation from The Federative Republic of Brazil
Position Paper for the Security Council

The issues before the Security Council are: Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Security; and Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. The Federative Republic of Brazil is committed to improve the overall security circumstances as well as the situation of vulnerable groups in crisis areas around the world and is therefore looking forward to constructive negotiations in the Security Council.

I. Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Security

The Federative Republic of Brazil is alarmed over the devastating effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on peace and security all over the world. The pandemic-induced restrictions by national governments have led to a worldwide economic recession as well as an increase in unemployment and poverty, which is a breeding ground for terrorist ideologies and therefore for armed conflicts and wars around the world. Due to the global linking of value chains, such effects also spread to other countries, which leads to a negative impact on the global economy and therefore worsens the overall security situation. In addition, the suspension and restriction of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions has seriously endangered the peace in the affected regions. In many cases, the resulting backlog has not yet been adequately processed, which leads to a deterioration in the security situation in the areas supported by UN missions and thus also threatens the security of the blue helmet soldiers. This shows that the ongoing hysteria over the coronavirus has caused cities, regions, countries and international organizations to implement disproportionate measures that have had an alarming effect on peace and security. Furthermore, especially given the ongoing advances in vaccination against the virus and the decreasing intensity of new variants, the efforts made by many countries as well as international organizations to put the pandemic behind them and return to normality, repair the damage caused by the suspension of peacekeeping missions and therefore improve the overall peace and security must be described as insufficient and have to be improved. Brazil individually has made huge steps towards this goal by implementing policies that provided 65 million Brazilians with emergency relief, allocated more than \$100 million for health-related actions and to help small business and dedicated \$400 million towards COVID-19 vaccine research, development and production.

Brazil is fully committed to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* from 1948, in this context especially to the right to a standard of living adequate for personal health and well-being. Brazil also supports the 1949 *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War* in the protection of health care services and facilities and its focus on epidemics, as well as the 2020 *Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19* in promoting cooperation between actors. The World Health Organization's (WHO) resolution 73/1 (2020), however, is not supported by the Federative Republic of Brazil, since the invitation for Member States to undertake appropriate measures to fight COVID-19 is disproportional in its definition of the term "appropriate" Brazil acknowledges the General Assembly (GA) resolution 74/270 (2020) in advocating for global solidarity in the fight against the pandemic as well as GA resolution 74/274 (2020) on the importance of cooperation, multilateralism, and the fundamental coordinating role of WHO. However, Brazil cannot and will not support Security Council (SC) resolution 2532 (2020) and the resulting suspension of peacekeeping operations, as this endangered the security situation in crisis areas and therefore represented an interference with the fundamental principle of the United Nations. SC resolution 2535 (2020) in its call for an increased engagement of civil society in conflict resolution therefore fails to effectively tackle the issues caused by the interruption of the operations, since public engagement can't sufficiently substitute the presence of UN-peacekeepers. The overall repertoire of agreements also lacks concrete measures to reestablish a pre-pandemic situation for improving the overall security of individuals and groups.

Brazil therefore encourages countries and organizations to follow our example of implementing new strategies to get back to normal as soon as possible. In the context of this SC session, this means that a solution must be found on how to repair the damage caused by the restriction in UN peacekeeping operations during the pandemic. Brazil therefore recommends to evaluate and improve the overall quality of the operations by working on training programs for blue helmet soldiers. To decrease the number of fatalities among soldiers, troops shall not be deployed without being sufficiently prepared for the region they are going to operate in. Brazil therefore proposes establishing a working group consisting of members of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Integrated Training Service (ITS) for the evaluation and improvement of pre-deployment training programs. Since peace and security is a topic of general interest, this is to be financed from the compulsory contributions of the Member States. The working group will operate for a limited time of six months, in which it will observe and evaluate UN training programs and work out strategies on how to improve and adapt them to a

post-pandemic state of the world. It will then report to the DPKO and the ITS. Brazil once again wants to offer sharing our experience through partnerships with the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB) as well as the Brazilian Navy's Peacekeeping Training Center (COpNavPaz).

II. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

According to a World Bank Group Assessment on conflict and violence in the 21st century, the proportion of civilians among the fatalities in armed conflicts has been increasing ever since 1945. By now, more than 90% of worldwide victims of armed conflict are civilians. A large portion of today's armed conflicts is not or not only between state actors but also involves the fight against intrastate groups such as rebels or terrorist organizations. The number of civilian victims is particularly high in those conflicts involving non-state actors. Especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees and displaced persons tend to become victims of violence and crimes such as murder and deportation in conflict areas. But not only are vulnerable groups, in particular young people, victims to violence in armed conflicts, they can also play an important role in preventing and resolving them. However, a lack of education in crisis areas is problematic for combating conflicts against intrastate groups, since it makes young people susceptible to terrorist ideologies as it exposes them to misinformation and radical ideas. This not only lowers their potential of contributing to a peaceful and democratic society, it also increases the probability of them joining terrorist organizations and therefore actively hinders peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes.

Brazil appreciates the *Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* of 1949 for establishing the norm of civilians being entitled to protection during conflicts and acknowledges the importance of this cornerstone for negotiations on the Protection of Civilians (POC). Brazil also commits to the 1974 *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict*, including the acknowledgement of the victimization of women and children during armed conflicts and the proscription of attacks and bombing of civilian populations. The Federative Republic of Brazil also supports the Security Council (SC) in its fight for the protection of civilians, especially women and children, through resolutions such as SC resolution 1265 (1999), which condemns the deliberate targeting of civilians in situations of armed conflict, SC resolution 1621 (2005), that establishes a *Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict* (CAAC) and SC resolution 1674 (2006) which deliberates that the targeting of civilians and the violation of international humanitarian and human rights law in armed conflict constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Considering youth a particularly vulnerable group in situations of armed conflict, Brazil strongly approves the SC resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security as well as those on Children and Armed Conflict, especially SC resolution 2250 (2015) in first recognizing the positive role of young people in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, SC resolution 2535 (2020) in its demand for greater inclusion for youth in decision-making processes and most importantly SC resolution 2601 (2021) in emphasizing the invaluable role education plays for individuals and society. However, the previous resolutions regarding the protection of vulnerable groups such as children lack efficiency and concrete relief measures.

Brazil wishes to address this shortcoming by calling for the development of improved education systems for vulnerable groups in crisis areas. This especially includes expanding vulnerable groups' possibilities of attending public schools. A solid education will provide children a basis to build their lives on and therefore improve their own security and life situation. This will make them less susceptible to terrorist recruitment measures and increase their ability to participate politically in a peaceful way. The already established CAAC therefore shall be expanded by a new sub-unit for a limited period of time of three years. The new *Working Group on Education in Crisis Areas* (WGECA) will work together with national and local governments as well as non-government organizations (NGOs) to identify recruitment hotspots of terrorist organizations. The exchange with organizations and governments on site will then also be used to collect possible strategies for improving the access to education in those areas. This will help identify current problems and possible ways of tackling them in manners that are compatible with the respective country's or region's society, culture and political system. The WGECA will then provide advise and expertise for local and national governments on how to implement the identified improvement strategies and also act as a liaison to the UN so that it can be called upon quickly and efficiently when additional assistance from the international community is needed in a certain region.