



**Statement of Amb. Tovar da Silva Nunes,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva,  
during the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council,**

Señora Presidente,

Brazil congratulates IOM on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We thank the Organization for consistently pursuing a dignified, orderly, and safe migration for the benefit of all migrants and societies.

Brazil further appreciates IOM's efforts to assist people on the move despite the added challenges posed by COVID-19.

The pandemic has significantly affected migrant people and their families worldwide. Despite migrants being on the frontlines of national efforts to address COVID-19, many are living under greater vulnerability due to the loss of employment and income. The pandemic has also hampered their access to health services – including vaccination – and sanitation. In some unfortunate cases, migrants were also stigmatized and “scapegoated”.

As the virus does not discriminate on the basis of migration “status”, neither should any State in order to achieve effective results against COVID-19.

Señora Presidente,

From the very beginning of the pandemic, the Brazilian government has adopted consistent measures to address the problem.

Such measures benefitted migrants in our territory, including those from Venezuela, which remains one of the main migration challenges worldwide. Our response – “Operation Welcome” – comprised measures to promote emergency assistance, immunization and socioeconomic integration of vulnerable migrants well before the pandemic.

Brazil has expanded access to health services and social protection coverage for migrants in accordance with our migration law. Our government facilitated the process to regularize migration and included migrants in social programs related to income transfer, education, and healthcare, especially vaccination, without discrimination.

Brazil has also granted free, universal, and equal access to vaccination, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups and those with the greatest risk of contamination by the virus. Last September, sufficient immunizers were distributed to vaccinate the entire adult population with at least one dose.

Brazil is greatly concerned with discriminatory measures against the movement of people based on acceptance of certain brands of vaccines. Such policies go against the solidarity that the international community seeks to strengthen.

We are convinced that the pandemic will only be overcome when all countries have the necessary tools for its containment. As Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “no one is safe until everyone is safe”.

Thank you.