

**74th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
General Debate**

**Statement by Mr. Jair Messias Bolsonaro,
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
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(check against delivery)

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres,
Heads of State, Government, and Delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I present to you a new Brazil, one that reemerges from the brink of socialism.
A Brazil that is being rebuilt on the basis of the yearnings and ideals of its people.

In my government, Brazil is on a path to rebuilding trust with the world, lowering unemployment, violence and the risk for business activities. We are doing so by cutting red tape, regulations and, above all, by example.

My country has been on the verge of socialism, which has put us in a state of widespread corruption, serious economic recession, high criminality rates and unending attacks on the family and religious values that underpin our traditions.

In 2013, an agreement between the Workers Party government and the Cuban dictatorship brought to Brazil 10 thousand physicians with no professional registration. They were prevented from bringing their spouses and children, had 75% of their wages confiscated by the regime and were denied basic freedoms, such as that of coming and going.

True slave work, believe it...

With the support of human rights agencies from both Brazil and the UN!

Even before I took over, almost 90% of these physicians left Brazil due to unilateral action by the Cuban regime. Those that stayed on will undergo medical qualification in order to be able to practice their profession.

This is how our country stopped supporting the Cuban dictatorship, no longer sending Havana 300 million dollars every year.

History shows that as early as the 1960s, Cuban agents were sent to several countries to help establish dictatorships.

A few decades ago they tried to change the Brazilian regime and that of other Latin American countries.

They have been defeated!

Brazilian civilians and military were killed and many others had their reputation destroyed, but we won that war and safeguarded our liberty.

These agents from the Cuban regime were also taken to Venezuela by Hugo Chávez. Today around 60 thousand of them control and interfere with every area of local society, especially in intelligence and defense.

Venezuela, once a thriving and democratic country, undergoes today the cruelty of socialism.

Socialism is working in Venezuela!

Everyone is poor and has no freedom!

Brazil also feels the impact from the Venezuelan dictatorship. A part of the 4 million people that escaped the country, fleeing hunger and violence, migrated to Brazil. We have done our part to help them through Operation Welcome, an operation conducted by the Brazilian Army that has gained world-wide acclaim.

We have been working with other countries, including the United States, with a view to reestablishing democracy in Venezuela. We are also making a serious effort to ensure that no other South American country has to experience this nefarious regime.

The Forum of São Paulo, a criminal organization established in 1990 by Fidel Castro, Lula and Hugo Chávez in order to spread and implement socialism in Latin America, remains alive and must be fought.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The search of prosperity requires us to adopt policies that bring us closer to nations that have developed economically and consolidated their democracies.

There can be no political freedom in the absence of economic freedom. And vice-versa. Free market, concessions and privatizations are all present today in Brazil.

The economy is recovering and breaking with the vices and chains of almost two decades of fiscal recklessness, factionalism in the state apparatus and widespread

corruption. Economic opening, professional management and productivity gains are primary goals of our government.

We are opening the economy and integrating ourselves to global value chains. In only eight months, we have concluded the two biggest trade agreements in our history, those between Mercosur and the European Union and between Mercosur and the European Free Trade Area. In the upcoming months a number of other agreements will follow.

We are also ready to start the accession process to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). We are already at an advanced state, adopting best practices at every level, from financial regulation to environmental protection.

Ms. Ysany Kalapalo, now let's talk about the Amazon.

First of all, my government is solemnly committed to environmental preservation and sustainable development, to the benefit of Brazil and the world.

Brazil is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biodiversity and mineral resources.

Our Amazon rainforest is larger than Western Europe and it remains virtually untouched. This shows that we are one of the countries that protects the most its environment.

This time of the year, dry weather and winds favor both spontaneous and criminal fires. It is also important to mention that indigenous and local populations also use fire as part of their culture and means of survival.

All countries have their issues. However, the sensationalist attacks we have suffered from much of the international media due to the Amazon fires have aroused our patriotic sentiment.

It is a misconception to state that the Amazon is a world heritage; and it is a misconception, as scientists attest, to say that our forest is the lung of the world. Resorting to these fallacies, some countries, instead of helping, have followed the lies of the media and behaved disrespectfully, with a colonialist spirit.

They have questioned what is most sacred to us: our sovereignty!

One of them, at the last G7 meeting, dared to suggest imposing sanctions against Brazil without even listening to us. I am grateful to those who have not accepted to carry out this absurd proposal.

I am especially grateful to President Donald Trump, who well epitomized the spirit that must prevail among UN Member States: respect for the freedom and sovereignty of each of us.

Today, 14% of the Brazilian territory is demarcated as indigenous land, but we must understand that our natives are human beings, just like any of us. They want and deserve to enjoy the same rights as all of us.

I want to make it clear: Brazil will not increase its already demarcated indigenous lands to 20%, as some Heads of State would like it to happen.

There are 225 indigenous peoples in Brazil, as well as references from 70 tribes living in isolated places. Each people or tribe has their chief, their culture, their traditions, their customs and especially their way of seeing the world.

The views of an indigenous leader does not represent that of all the Brazilian indigenous population. Often some of these leaders, such as Cacique Raoni, are used as a ploy by foreign governments in their information warfare to advance their interests in the Amazon.

Unfortunately, some people, both inside and outside Brazil, with the support of NGOs, insist on treating and keeping our natives as cavemen.

Brazil now has a President who cares about those who were there before the Portuguese arrived. Indigenous people do not want to be poor landowners on rich lands – especially on the richest lands in the world. This is the case of the Yanomâmi and Raposa Serra do Sol reserves. In these reserves, there is plenty of gold, diamond, uranium, niobium and rare earths, among others.

And these territories are huge! The Yanomâmi Reserve alone has approximately 95,000 km², the size of Portugal or Hungary, although only 15,000 indigenous live in the area.

This shows that those who attack us are not concerned with the indigenous human being, but with the mineral wealth and biodiversity in these areas.

<Read letter>

OPEN LETTER TO THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF BRAZIL

The Indigenous Farmers Group of Brazil, composed by various ethnic groups and with representatives in all units of the Brazilian Federation, which inhabit an area of over 30 million hectares of the Brazilian territory, comes, respectfully, before the Brazilian society, to fully endorse the indigenous YSANI KALAPALO, of the Xingu-Mato Grosso Indigenous Park, so that she can explain to the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, the reality lived by the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, as well as uncover the lies disseminated by the national and international media, which insist in keeping the indigenous peoples of Brazil as an endless market reserve, serving the purposes of countries that still see Brazil as a colony without rules and without sovereignty.

Brazil has 14% per cent of its national territory demarcated as indigenous land, and many communities are thirsting for the development of this part of the country to finally take place, without ideological or bureaucratic constraints, which will improve quality of life in the areas of entrepreneurship, health and education.

A new indigenous policy in Brazil is needed. Time is running out!

Bold measures can and should be encouraged in the pursuit of indigenous economic autonomy. Certainly, if a set of decisions comes along these lines, we can envision a new model for the Brazilian indigenous issue.

A new time for indigenous communities is of utmost importance. The situation of extreme poverty we are living in, surviving only from welfare and basic food supply, has never represented dignity and development.

Radical environmentalism and outdated indigenous studies are out of tune with what indigenous peoples want. They represent backwardness, marginalization and utter absence of decisiveness.

The reality now requires that the world, in the United Nations General Assembly arena, know our wishes and aspirations in the voice of the indigenous YSANI KALAPALO, who will share the real picture of the environment and the Brazilian indigenous communities.

Therefore, YSANI KALAPALO enjoys the trust and prestige of the indigenous leaders who want development, empowerment and protagonism, and is able to represent a list of ethnic groups that endorsed this letter.

<End letter>

The United Nations has played a key role in overcoming colonialism and cannot accept this mentality to return to these halls and corridors under any pretext.

We must not forget that the world needs to be fed. France and Germany, for example, use more than 50% of their territories for agriculture, while Brazil only uses 8% of its land for food production.

61% of our territory is preserved!

Our policy is zero tolerance for crime, including environmental crimes.

I reiterate that any initiative to help or support the preservation of the Amazon rainforest, or other biomes, must be treated in full respect of Brazilian sovereignty.

We also reject attempts to instrumentalize environmental issues or indigenous policy in favor of foreign political and economic interests, especially those disguised as good intentions.

We are ready to harness our full potential sustainably through partnerships and added value.

Brazil reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the highest human rights standards, with the promotion of democracy and freedom – of expression, of religion and of press. This is a commitment that goes hand in hand with the fight against corruption and criminality, which are urgent demands from the Brazilian society.\

We will continue to contribute, within and outside the United Nations, to build a world free of impunity, with no safe havens for criminals and corrupts.

In my government, the Italian terrorist Cesare Battisti escaped from Brazil, was arrested in Bolivia and extradited to Italy. Another three Paraguayan and one Chilean terrorists who lived in Brazil as political refugees were also repatriated.

Terrorists under the disguise of a politically persecuted person will not find asylum in Brazil anymore.

Recently, socialist presidents that came before me embezzled hundreds of billions of dollars, corrupting part of our media and our Parliament, all for a project to attain absolute power.

They were judged and punished thanks to the patriotism, perseverance and bravery of a judge who is an icon in my country: Dr. Sérgio Moro, our current Minister of Justice and Public Security.

These presidents also transferred a considerable amount of resources to other countries, aiming at promoting and implementing similar projects throughout our region. This funding source has dried up.

The same authorities came here every year and made uncommitted statements about issues that never addressed the real interests of Brazil nor contributed to world stability. Despite that, they were praised.

In my country, we had to do something about the nearly 70 thousand killings and countless violent crimes that annually tore apart the Brazilian population. Life is the most basic human right. Our policemen were the preferred target of crime. Only in 2017, around 400 policemen were brutally murdered. This is changing.

Measures were implemented and we managed to cut murder rates in more than 20% in the first six months of my government.

The seizure of cocaine and other drugs has reached a record high.

Brazil is safer and more welcoming today. We have just extended visa exemptions to countries such as the United States, Japan, Australia and Canada, and we are currently considering the adoption of similar measures for China and India, among others.

With more safety and convenience, we want everyone to be able to visit Brazil, and particularly our Amazon rainforest, with all its vastness and natural beauty.

The Amazon is not being destroyed nor consumed by fire, as the media is falsely portraying. Each one of you may check what I am saying.

Do not hesitate to visit Brazil. It is way different than the country portrayed in many newspapers and television shows.

Religious persecution is a scourge that we have to tirelessly fight against.

In recent years, we have witnessed, in different regions, cowardly attacks that victimized the faithful gathered in churches, synagogues and mosques.

Brazil strongly condemns all these acts. It is ready to cooperate with other countries to protect those who are oppressed because of their faith.

Brazil is particularly concerned with the growing persecution, discrimination and violence against missionaries and religious minorities, in different regions of the world.

That is why we supported the creation of the “International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief”.

On this date, we will annually remember those who have suffered the nefarious consequences of religious persecution.

It is unacceptable that, in the 21st century, with so many instruments, treaties and organizations whose aim it is to safeguard all sorts of rights, there are still millions of Christians and people of other religions that lose their lives or their freedom because of their faith.

The devotion of Brazil to the cause of peace is evidenced by its solid history of contribution to United Nations missions.

For seventy years, Brazil has effectively contributed to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

We support all efforts to make peacekeeping missions more effective, bringing real and tangible contributions to host countries.

In different scenarios – whether in Haiti, Lebanon, or the Democratic Republic of Congo – Brazilian troops are recognized for their outstanding work and their respect for local communities, for human rights and for the principles that guide peacekeeping operations.

I reaffirm our willingness to uphold our tangible contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions, including through training and capacity building, areas where we have well-known experience.

Throughout this year, we have established a broad international agenda, aimed at restoring Brazil’s role in the world stage, as well as at reestablishing Brazil’s relationships with key partners.

Last January, we were in Davos, where we presented our ambitious reform program for investors from all around the world.

Last March, we went to Washington, DC, where we launched a bold and comprehensive partnership with the government of the United States covering all areas, most notably political coordination and economic and military cooperation.

Also in March, in a visit to Chile, the Forum for the Progress and Development of South America (PROSUR) was established. This is an important initiative to ensure that South America consolidates itself as an area of democracy and freedom.

We then visited Israel, where we identified numerous opportunities for cooperation, especially in the area of technology and security. I thank Israel for their support in the fight against recent disasters in my country.

We also visited one of our great partners in the Southern Cone: Argentina. With President Mauricio Macri and our partners from Uruguay and Paraguay, we pushed ideology away from Mercosur. We also have been able to achieve important victories in terms of international trade, by successfully finalizing negotiations that had been going on for decades without a conclusion.

Later this year, we intend to visit key partners both in the Middle East and in East Asia. These visits will allow us to strengthen friendship ties and deepen relations with Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. We are committed to continue improving our relations with the entire Arab world and Asia.

We are also looking forward to visiting our partners, and friends, in Africa, Oceania and Europe.

As you can see, ladies and gentlemen, Brazil is open to the world and eager to establish partnerships with all those interested in working for prosperity, peace and freedom.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Brazil I represent is a country that is recovering and rising again, reinforcing its partnerships and restoring trust in itself, in political and economic terms.

We are prepared to take on our responsibilities in the international system.

Over the past few decades, we let ourselves be seduced by ideologies that sought not the truth, but absolute power.

Ideology has settled in the domains of culture, education and communications, dominating the media, universities and schools.

Ideology has invaded our homes and tried to dismantle what is the *celula mater* of any healthy society: the family.

It has also tried to destroy the innocence of our children in an attempt to corrupt even their most basic and elementary identity: the biological one.

“Political correctness” came to dominate the public debate, expelling rationality and replacing it with manipulation, recurring clichés and slogans.

Ideology has invaded the human soul itself to reap it apart from God and from the dignity He has bestowed upon us.

And with these methods, ideology has always left a trail of death, ignorance, and misery wherever it went.

I am a living proof of this. I was cowardly knife-stabbed by a leftist militant and only survived by a miracle. Once again I thank God for my life.

The United Nations can help us fight the materialistic and ideological environment that undermines some basic principles of human dignity. This Organization was created to promote peace between sovereign nations, as well as social progress with freedom, in accordance with the preamble of the UN Charter.

When it comes to matters related to climate, democracy, human rights, to the equality of rights and duties between men and women, and many others, all we need to do is contemplate the truth, following John 8:32:

- ‘An ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’

All our means, both national and international, should ultimately be directed towards this goal.

We are not here to erase nationalities and overrule sovereignty in the name of an abstract “global interest”.

This is not the Global Interest Organization!

This is the United Nations Organization. And so it must remain!

With humility and confidence in the liberating power of truth, let me reassure you that you will be able to count on this new Brazil that I represent.

Thank you all for the grace and glory of God!

Thank you very much.