



## **MISSION PERMANENTE DU BRÉSIL**

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### **FIRST SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER REDUCTION**

5-7 JUNE 2007

#### **STATEMENT BY BRAZIL**

Mr. Chairman,

Due to its geographical extension, Brazil is also vulnerable to climate change. The country is subject to a high number of disasters that, regrettably, provoke losses of lives and livelihoods, with dramatic social and economic impact.

The National Secretariat of Civil Defence of the Ministry for National Integration is the body responsible for coordinating the national system of disaster response in Brazil. It has been working thoroughly with special emphasis on prevention, mitigation, planning and promoting preparedness against natural and anthropogenic disasters, helping and supporting affected population, rehabilitating and recovering disaster scenarios.

The result of this active engagement and action has been substantial decline in mortality rates and in the number of losses resulting from disasters in Brazil. This reduction took place regardless the intensification of disaster. Growing awareness of the communities, media and the several bodies responsible for managing disaster risk reduction was an essential element in achieving this positive result.

It is critical that the population be aware of how to behave once the alert and early warning mechanisms have been disseminated. The community level is essential to build resilience to hazards. For this reason the Brazilian strategy consisted in developing technical and managerial capacity building at the community level, in partnership with municipalities and states. Out of the total number of 5561 municipalities in the country, 4255 have "Municipal Coordinators".

Another initiative already in practice is the institutional and legislative reorganization of Humanitarian Assistance. Part of the food stocks distributed are acquired from small farm family production contributing, at the same time, to reducing food insecurity in vulnerable population affected by emergencies as well as helping low income farmers, as part of the "Fome Zero" strategy.

There are still many challenges for the near future: one of them is introduction of education for risk reduction in school curricula and informal channels. It is critical to build a culture of safety and resilience. Another initiative is the mapping of risk areas in the country to allow the identification of natural and anthropogenic origin and assess local vulnerabilities.

To face these challenges the Brazilian government applies a participatory approach by mobilizing the engagement of community participation, collecting useful information and promoting disaster risk knowledge to all actors directly involved in the process.

Thank you Mr. Chairman