

Networks advocating for SDGs protest against the decision of the Brazilian government to withdraw from the list of countries that would submit their VNR at HLPF 2019

The GT SC Agenda 2030 (Civil Society Working Group for 2030 Agenda) and the Rede ODS Brasil (SDG-Brazil Network) express their repudiation of the Brazilian government's decision to withdraw from presenting its VNR during the HLPF, to be held July 9-18 at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York.

The VNR presentation, agreed in 2018, would be an opportunity for Brazil to reaffirm its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, while sharing with the international community the advances and/or challenges at the national level for its implementation.

We express our concern at the growing distance from the commitment made by the Brazilian State, in 2015, together with 192 other UN Member States, to implement a prosperity-based sustainable development model that respect people and planet, oriented for peace, and made possible through inclusive multisectoral partnerships.

Such a model, detailed in the 2030 Agenda, far from being a global imposition, has a universal principle (it must be adopted by all countries) and should be treated as a national responsibility, since it aligns with dear principles of our Federal Constitution along the seventeen SDGs and 169 targets the country has committed to comply with.

In Brazil, the social gaps between rich and poor are widening, the inequality is increasing, and violence is intensifying the historical exclusion of the majority of the Brazilian population – whether for reasons of race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression (SOGIE). This makes public policies already aligned with the SDGs very relevant. Therefore, it is deeply concerning that the government of Brazil, in addition to insisting on adopting social, economic and environmental policies that contradicts the SDGs, it has withdrawn from presenting the VNR.

This decision indicates the new government uncomfortable position with several indicators in all areas of the 2030 Agenda, with which it refuses to align in principle. Such withdrawal results from the new Brazilian foreign policy that rejects multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, and international non-binding agreements. It is also another example of the current inability to present actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda which, as evidence shows, is now treated as an obstacle to the approval of President Bolsonaro's main projects: easing weapon-carrying restrictions, dismantling social participation policies, reducing resources for health and education, eliminating racial and gender equality policies, promoting deforestation, pushing for regressive taxation reform, devastating the environment, including by deregulating already legally protected areas, among other atrocities.

We, therefore, repudiate this decision that will only further damage Brazil's international position, vis-à-vis those countries that used to have us as a progressive example in facing inequalities and promoting human, social, and economic rights.

Brazil, July 2nd 2019.

WG 2030 Agenda (www.gtagenda2030.org.br)

Rede ODS Brasil (SDG Brazil Network) (www.redeodsbrasil.org)

