



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the call for inputs regarding the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 53/6 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”, dated 12 October 2023, has the honor to transmit herewith the contribution of the Brazilian Government.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 25 March 2024



To: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
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SUBMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

1. Please describe through concrete examples and stories the impacts of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights in your country. Please indicate whether the impact was exceptional or whether an example of many similarly situated cases. Please estimate the number of cases that may be similar in your country.

The dramas of families impacted by climate disasters in Brazil are becoming increasingly recurrent. Among the many stories told by Brazilian newspapers, those that show cases of families frequently suffering from the loss of their belongings and the destruction of their homes stand out, as exemplified by what happened to the couple Marlene Ribeiro, 64, and Gilson Alves, 65. They recount that it was especially painful to see, in a short period of time, everything being lost once again after the great effort to replace the old furniture rendered useless by the rains.

In total, 3,425 alerts were issued throughout the country between January and December 2023 - representing an average of at least nine alerts issued daily. Of this total, 1,813 were hydrological alerts (52.9%) and another 1,612 were geohydrological alerts (47.1%). In recent years, Brazil has been suffering intensely and increasingly frequently from the adverse effects of climate change, especially due to extreme weather events.

Floods and landslides have been plaguing the country due to intense rains, causing floods, especially in urban areas. Landslides are a constant threat to those living on slopes and mountainous areas. Coastal regions such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo and the southern part of the country have been suffering from the increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms and cyclones.

In another portion of the territory, regions like Northeast Brazil have been experiencing prolonged periods of drought, impacting the availability of water for human consumption, agriculture, and energy generation. Desertification, a process associated with soil degradation, has also been a concern in some areas. The North of the country, as seen in the Amazon region in 2023, has also been facing intense and prolonged river droughts.

Furthermore, an increase in average temperatures has been observed in various parts of Brazil, which may have implications for agriculture, water resources, and public health. Occurrences of more intense and prolonged heatwaves have also been recorded.

The losses and damages caused by climate extremes in Brazil involve both economic impacts, such as those affecting sectors like agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism, damages to essential infrastructure and properties, and the disruption of supply chains; as well as non-economic impacts, such as the loss of family members, the disappearance of cultures and ways of life, or even being forced to leave ancestral lands and homes.

2. Please describe any relevant quantitative and qualitative data as well as mechanisms and tools to measure, monitor, report on, and evaluate the impacts of loss and damage, including from extreme weather and slow-onset events, on the full enjoyment of human rights. Please take into account, inter alia, the disproportionate effects on women and girls, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, persons living in poverty and others in vulnerable situations.

The number of days with heatwaves in Brazil has increased from 7 to 52 over 30 years and, according to a study published in the scientific journal Plos One by 12 researchers from seven Brazilian and Portuguese universities and institutions, such as the University of Lisbon and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), such increase in heatwaves has been fatal: from 2000 to 2018, around 48,000 Brazilians died as a result of sudden temperature increases - a number higher than deaths from landslides.

To calculate the victims of heatwaves, researchers analyzed over 9 million death records from periods when these phenomena occurred in Brazil. Deaths occurred due to several reasons such as circulatory problems, respiratory diseases, and chronic conditions aggravated by high temperatures.

Another element highlighted in the research is that the elderly, especially women, are among the most vulnerable groups to these extreme weather events because they have bodies with lower thermal regulation capacity and present more comorbidities. Within these groups, there are also more prevalent individuals of mixed race, Black, and with lower levels of education, according to the research. Those findings demonstrate that precarious socioeconomic situations, affecting the poorest segments and compromising access to housing, healthcare, and prevention methods, make the poor more vulnerable to climate change.

According to data from the National Center for Monitoring and Alerts of Natural Disasters - CEMADEN (in portuguese), in 2023 alone, there were 1,161 climatic events in 1,038 municipalities monitored by the agency, with 716 hydrological occurrences and 445 geological occurrences.

In the last ten years, 93% of Brazilian municipalities have been affected by some type of disaster related to extreme weather events, and over 4 million Brazilians have had their homes destroyed. Droughts, floods, and inundations are examples of extreme weather events that affect Brazilian cities and cause an average annual loss of R\$ 13 billion (approximately 2,6 billion US Dollars).

Over two decades, climate changes have affected more than 125 million Brazilians with economic losses exceeding R\$ 300 billion (approximately 60 billion US Dollars). The Northeast region of Brazil accumulated the highest financial loss (61%), followed by the Southeast (16%) and the South (15%), with financial losses more concentrated in the period from 2020 to 2022, which represented 70% of the total.

The analysis of six decades of climate data, from 1961 to 2020, demonstrates that ongoing climate changes cause damage to natural, terrestrial, and oceanic systems, human, infrastructure, and productive systems. Events such as the historical drought in the Amazon and Pantanal, heatwaves in various parts of the country, and torrential rains that caused the flooding of entire cities in the South region are impacts of the 1.1°C global warming induced by humanity, causing material and human losses.

The increase in maximum temperature has been widespread throughout Brazil, above the global average, reaching 3°C in some regions. The increase in ocean temperature was unprecedented in 2023, with extreme marine heatwaves. As a result, there are biodiversity losses, deoxygenation, acidification, and sea level rise, causing damages to various economic sectors and coastal cities where more than 60% of the Brazilian population lives. For this year's summer, there is an imminent threat of coral bleaching on the Brazilian coast, similar to the occurrence observed in the Great Barrier Reef, one of Australia's national treasures.

Brazil is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with projections of worsening material and human losses. The country has been listed by a World Bank study as currently among the top ten countries in the world with the highest number of deaths and economic losses due to climate change.

Despite constraints to obtain additional data to address the current inquiry, it can be inferred from existing data that in Brazil, the effects of extreme weather events, as well as those of slow manifestation, affect disproportionately groups such as women and girls, children, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, people in poverty, and other groups in vulnerable situations.

3. Please describe any specific measures, including public policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements that your Government has undertaken or plans to undertake at a national, sectoral or sub-national level, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including equity-based approaches and solutions. Please also identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability, including means of implementation.

The Brazilian government has been implementing or intends to implement various policies and practices related to climate change, some of which impact or may impact the prevention, minimization, and addressing of losses and damages, in accordance with international human rights law, for instance:

Commitments under the Paris Agreement: Brazil is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which include commitments to emission reduction and adaptation actions. These initiatives have the potential to contribute to the minimization of losses and damages.

National Policy on Climate Change: Established by Law No. 12.187/2009, it is currently undergoing an update and foresees the need to consider the country's vulnerabilities to climate change, which may include approaches to losses and damages.

National Plan on Climate Change: Established by the aforementioned law, it coordinates government actions to address climate change. This includes mitigation and adaptation policies that may have positive impacts on reducing losses and damages. In 2023, the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change (CIM, in the Portuguese acronym), composed of 18 ministries, required the update of this instrument and instituted Temporary Technical Groups to develop Mitigation and Adaptation strategies, with a forecasted completion by 2024.

National Climate Change Fund (Climate Fund): Funds projects and programs aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. These projects may include initiatives focused on prevention and reduction of losses and damages.

National Plan for Protection and Civil Defense: Currently under development, it strengthens the National System for Protection and Civil Defense (SINPDEC), through the proposition and development of the National Plan for Protection and Civil Defense - Risk and Disaster

Management, with guidance and strategies for Civil Defense action in five fronts: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

4. Please identify and share examples of promising practices and critical challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full enjoyment of human rights in the context of loss and damage, including examples that highlight multilateral cooperation and approaches, at global and regional levels, including equity-based approaches and solutions.

The Brazilian government has been striving to construct robust public policies that consider and seek to diminish the vulnerability of those already at risk due to climate change, as exemplified by what has been discussed and considered in the elaboration of the National Plan on Climate Change - Climate Plan, in its National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation. In this strategy, the 15 sectors envisioned to compose the Plan are expected to consider the promotion of climate justice when proposing their adaptation actions. Currently, there are 23 ministries involved in consolidating the Brazilian climate agenda.

However, there are challenges considered critical in promoting, protecting, and fulfilling the full enjoyment of human right in the context of losses and damages in the country. In a country of continental dimensions like Brazil, out of a total of 5,570 municipalities, 3,679 municipalities have low adaptive capacity, amidst successive climate disasters. Social and economic inequalities, as well as governance challenges, can hinder the effective implementation of adaptation and response measures.

5. Please provide specific recommendations, if possible, on how to address the critical challenges that have been identified, including actions to be taken at country, regional, and global levels, as well as by different groups of stakeholders, governments, development agencies, financing institutions, and others.

Promoting social awareness and a systemic view that exclusion and inequality amplify socio-environmental vulnerabilities, and that progress requires macroeconomic changes has been crucial in overcoming the critical challenges that have been identified. From this perspective, at the national level, there is a general need to develop and implement plans, policies, and programs that ensure the supply of needs for the most vulnerable, guaranteeing them the right and access to easily understandable information, as well as equity in access to resources and services. At the global level, it is essential to strengthen commitments in international agreements, ensuring that developed countries financially support developing countries in building resilience, as well as technology transfer and capacity building. Through a

multi-level governance approach, it is necessary to reorient climate policies and overcome the inability to provide resources for adequate infrastructure for mitigation and adaptation.

6. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action and justice that promotes the full enjoyment of human rights in the context of loss and damage.

The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events affect the basic living conditions of humans, consequently impacting their rights. Considering the historical responsibility of developed countries regarding climate change, it is crucial that the commitments made in international conventions are fulfilled and that developing countries receive the financial support they need to reduce their emissions and decrease their vulnerability to climate change.

A key point to highlight is the participation of affected communities in decisions related to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in the policy formulation processes related to this issue. Additionally, there is a need to strengthen the role of the State and planning bodies, with effective monitoring and accountability to ensure that commitments and promises made in terms of adaptation action and climate justice are upheld.