



MINISTÉRIO DO  
MEIO AMBIENTE



**Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**  
Leadership Dialogue, 22 February 2021

**Remarks by the Secretary for Climate and  
International Affairs of the Ministry of Environment**  
Mr. Marcus Henrique Morais Paranaguá

Distinguished President Sveinung Rotevatn, Ministers and delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to extend my condolences for the loss of so many lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also severely impacted our economies.

Brazil is the largest megadiverse country in the world. The Amazon forest alone occupies approximately 49% of our territory and over 80% of its native vegetation is still conserved. Including all our biomes, 60% of our territory is covered today by native vegetation.

With a population of 210 million, Brazil must implement innovative public policies to balance nature conservation and the promotion of sustainable development. Today I share with you a few of our ambitious environmental programs.

The Forest Plus Program, whereby landowners are paid to conserve forests, is the largest ecosystems services payment program for native vegetation conservation in the world.

The Adopt a Park Program, through which companies and individuals, national or foreign, can adopt one of the 134 federal parks in the Amazon region, has a conservation target that exceeds the size of France and Spain combined.

We have also strengthened the partnership between the public and private sectors to promote ecotourism in national parks and forests, promoting increased conservation allied with the creation of income for the local population.

Moreover, in 2020, the Zero Landfill Program achieved a 17.7% reduction in the use of open dump sites.

Regarding our international efforts, we are committed towards concluding an ambitious and balanced Post-2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity.

Finally, Brazil's updated NDC reaffirms our commitment to reduce total net emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve climate neutrality by 2060. We do not rule out the possibility of adopting even more ambitious long-term strategies, provided that developed countries meet their financial obligations as well.

In conclusion, Brazil will contribute, through these programs and actions, towards global efforts to strengthen actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you.