Esteemed Chair, my dear friend Ambassador Nosipho Jezile

Distinguished colleagues,

I want to start by stating that Brazil is and remains a country deeply committed to gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment.

I don't need to remind you that women play a central role in family farming and, in general, in ensuring global food security and nutrition. ~~Ensuring their rights to land, health, education, and fair wages empowers them and strengthens food systems' sustainability and resilience.~~

However, they are disproportionately affected by hunger and food insecurity.

A feminist approach to the right to food is, therefore, vital to address the structural inequalities women face in accessing resources and decision-making.

We must all integrate a gender-sensitive approach across all levels of policy and decision-making.

This means recognizing the agency of women and girls as key actors in food systems. To ensure a feminist transformation of food systems it is necessary to adopt policies that prioritize women's equal access to resources, especially land and agricultural inputs, opportunities, decision-making spaces while also promoting equal pay and education.

We must also ensure that policies and programs actively address the structural inequalities that keep women and girls marginalized.

Additionally, integrating women's voices in the governance of food systems at local, national, and international levels is crucial for shaping policies that reflect their needs and priorities.

To operationalize these changes, governments should work hand in hand with grassroots women's organizations and ensure the representation of women in decision-making bodies related to agriculture and food security. That is what Brazil has been implementing both through CONSEA and by supporting the Marcha das Margaridas. The results of these dialogues with women's social

movements play a crucial role in guaranteeing the rights of rural and Indigenous women. Moreover, these partnerships prove that promoting gender equality in food systems is not just a policy objective but a change that must happen now.

Brazil has taken concrete steps towards a feminist transformation of our food systems. Let me share a little about what Brazil is doing to promote gender equality and empower women in agriculture and food systems.

A great example is the restoration of the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (Consea) in 2023. This action, in the very first days of the Government, has reaffirmed the importance of civil society participation in shaping our food security agenda. ~~This participatory governance model ensures that Indigenous peoples, rural women, and marginalized communities are prioritized in our food policies, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.~~

~~Recently, hunger has decreased in both rural and urban areas, across all regions and states in Brazil. Food security has improved in all these territories and for all these groups. Furthermore, the reduction in hunger was greatest in the North and Northeast regions, in households headed by women, and in households headed by black individuals. This demonstrates that the reduction of hunger in the country was accompanied by a reduction in inequalities, narrowing the gaps between regions, between states, between rural and urban areas, between men and women, and between white and black individuals in terms of access to food.~~

Now, allow me to share a few programs and projects Brazil has been implementing especially aimed at women in agriculture.

- National Program for Strengthening Family Farming (PRONAF Mulher), a credit line specifically designed for women farmers, offering special financing conditions to enhance their access to credit and empower them economically.
- The Food Acquisition Program (PAA) also prioritizes women, enabling them to sell their products to public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and food banks, ensuring a source of income while promoting sustainable food production. After the introduction of the 50% quota for women in the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) in 2023, Brazil achieved a

participation rate of 62% of women farmers supplying the PAA. Additionally, through the prioritization of certain groups by the PAA's managing group, 15% of Indigenous and Quilombola suppliers were reached.

- The National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production (PNAPO), which emphasizes the inclusion of women, particularly family farmers and traditional communities, in the promotion of agroecological practices. This policy recognizes the essential role women play in preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- The National Program on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture also provides essential support to women in urban areas, facilitating their participation in food production and ensuring their access to water resources through programs like " Cisternas" , which is particularly relevant in the semi-arid regions of Brazil. The recent outcome indicators of this program show a 90% reduction in the time spent fetching water, providing rural women with more free time for education, work, and leisure. There was also an improvement in overall family health indicators, positively impacting the lives of women: a 73% reduction in the risk of diarrhea, a 69% reduction in infant mortality due to diarrheal diseases, and an increase in birth weight, which positively affects human development in the medium and long term.

Internationally, Brazil has proudly sponsored the creation of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, which seeks to mobilize resources and political action to guarantee the Right to Food for all. This alliance aims to strengthen global solidarity in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, ensuring that the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women and girls, are not left behind.

However, we have to recognize that much remains to be done.

Wwe must focus our attention on concrete actions that can tackle the intersecting forms of discrimination women and girls face, if we are to guarantee their right to food.

Food must not be considered a privilege, but a fundamental human right. Together, through the implementation of these guidelines and the advancement of gender equality, we can ensure that no one is left behind in the fight for food security and the elimination of poverty.

Thank you