**Brazilian contributions for the next annual thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

Since the creation of the Right to Housing during the Habitat II Conference, Brazil has dignified housing as a social achievement, constitutionally recognized and incorporated into Brazilian social housing programs. According to Brazilian legislation, the concept of "decent housing" as "one that includes access to housing, security of tenure, habitability, affordability, cultural appropriateness, accessibility, location and urban goods and services offered by the city, a concept that refers to the availability of public transportation and adequate conditions of circulation, access to public facilities, sanitation, health, safety, work, education, culture and leisure, in the average standards of the city" is present in the housing policies of the Ministry of Cities and the federal government. It is important to emphasize that, among the policies guaranteeing fundamental rights, the right to housing is perfectly in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in its Article XXV, and is respected by the Brazilian Federal Constitution.

Brazil was also present in the last Habitat Conference in Quito, where the New Urban Agenda for a more sustainable urban development was agreed upon. The Government is also committed to the 2030 Agenda, having worked intensely to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the objectives, we highlight Goal number 11, which focuses on goals and indicators aimed at adequate housing and in which the Ministry of Cities has focused its activities.

In this sense, we demonstrate our Government`s commitment to the international sustainability agendas that include housing as a right from an approach that extrapolates the limits of the housing unit.

Initially, it should be clarified that, for the Brazilian government, the concept of adequate housing is not restricted to the construction of the housing unit itself, but also encompassing broad public access to sanitation, education, culture, health, leisure and public transport services, among others. A proof of this is that the housing programs under federal management, intended for the implementation of housing projects, include the implementation of infrastructure and the construction of public services.

However, it is important to remember that in establishing the improvement of housing conditions as a common competence of the federal government, the states, the Federal District and municipalities, the Brazilian Federal Constitution (CF) did not eliminate the autonomy of federated entities. On the contrary, it determined that this attribution be exercised through cooperative actions, placing the municipal public power as a central axis of the formulation and implementation of urban planning guidelines (articles 23 and 182 of the CF).

In this way, the Ministry of Cities gives opportunities in its housing programs for the construction of public services - based on a diagnosis of the demand for specific services prepared by the municipalities or states - that are adequate for each local reality and, also, compatible with the capacity of these governments in relation to the installation and maintenance of the services resulting from the installation of the equipment.

Brazil faces its immense urban challenges with public policies that adopt an integrated approach. A very clear expression of this integrated approach was the creation, in 2003, of the Ministry of Cities, a governmental institution devoted to dealing with the most relevant and strategic issues of the urban development, addressing specially the problems related to ensuring the right to decent housing for the low-income population, which requires, at the very least, integration between urban policies for housing, sanitation, mobility and urban development.

Among the main actors involved in the implementation of the housing programs are: the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Management, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Cities; the official banks, which are Banco do Brasil, Caixa Econômica Federal and Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social (BNDES); the public administration of the states, the Federal District or the municipalities; the construction sector; society at large; and the beneficiary families. Each of these entities has distinct and significant roles in the chain of processes that involve the execution of federal programs.

Addressing the issue of adequate housing is a fundamental and priority action of the Brazilian government, based mainly on already consolidated programs, such as the "My House, My Life Program" (PMCMV) - focused on housing provision -, the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC), in its slum upgrading axis (UAP) - and, more recently, starting in 2017, the Reform Card Program (PCR) started integrating the portfolio of housing assistance provided by the federal government aiming at supporting housing improvements and acting more directly on the housing inadequacy issues complementing the existing actions.

This is how the main programmatic lines of the National Housing Policy are structured, which provide mechanisms to act on the diversity and needs of Brazil, seeking to overcome a deficit from decades of absence of public finance with emphasis on serving the low-income population that live in slums, inadequate houses or that are being excessively burdened with high rental costs.

In spite of already having mechanisms that allow the focus on the care of economically and socially under privileged families, according to their diverse needs and specificities derived from different groups of the population, the Brazilian government maintains the commitment to improve and expand its housing programs.

In this context, the selection of beneficiaries of the "My House, My Life Program", carried out by the local public entities, considers it a priority to care for families residing in risky or unhealthy areas or who have been displaced; families with women as the head of the household; and families with persons with disabilities.

Besides these priorities, the use of additional criteria of prioritization is encouraged, such as: families that are homeless; families with children under 18; single-parent families, that is, constituted only by the mother, only by the father, or only by a legal guardian for children and adolescents; families that have older person(s); families with person(s) with chronic illnesses incapacitating them for work; families in situation of involuntary cohabitation; families with an excessive rent burden; families with person that is served by protective measure provided for in the Law No. 11.340, of August 2006 (Maria da Penha Law), on domestic violence.

The Slum Upgrading Program, on the other hand, is designed to raise the living standards of low-income families dwelling in slums in urban or rural locations, by means of implementing necessary actions for urban, land, security, health and habitability regularization, aiming towards these families` permanence or resettlement, through the implementation of integrated housing, sanitation and social inclusion actions with the support of the government.

For this type of intervention the settlements that are considered priorities are the ones that hold families that: are subject to life-threatening situations because of erosions, landslides, floods, as well as being located in areas surrounding or near airports, electric power transmission lines, pipelines, railways and highways; are located in unhealthy areas, such as dumps, slums, stilts, wetlands, mangroves and areas that lack drinking water and sanitary sewage; are located in unsuitable areas for housing, for example, the occupations in water bodies (rivers, streams, lagoons, springs and canals), national forests, extractive reserves, fauna reserves, areas of permanent preservation (APP), areas of environmental protection (APA), among others; are in urban property conflict, meaning the dispute over possession or ownership of urban property, object of a police or judicial instrument of interposition of ownership, involving low-income families, who demand the protection of the State in guaranteeing the human right to housing and to the city; and are in high vulnerability due to their lower income, older person(s), person(s) with disabilities, and families that are headed by women.

The recently approved Reform Card Program (PCR) - which aims to raise the quality of urban life by means of qualifying housing in inadequate conditions, providing desirable housing conditions for low-income families, without the need to build new units – is focused on serving the population residing in their own residence considered inadequate under at least one of the following aspects: inadequate solution for the sanitary sewage; excessive population densification, inadequate roof of the housing unit, absence of exclusive domestic sanitary unit; high degree of depreciation or not completed construction work.

It is also essential to draw attention to the Social Work component present in all housing programs managed by the Federal Government. The Social Work includes a set of strategies, processes and actions, based on integrated and participatory diagnostic studies of the territory, comprising the social, economic, productive, environmental and political-institutional dimensions of the territory and of the beneficiary population, as well as the characteristics of the intervention, aiming at promoting the participation and the social insertion of these families, in articulation with other public policies, contributing to the improvement of their quality of life and to the sustainability of the goods, equipment and services implanted.

The Social Work is structured around four mandatory axes, and the emphasis to be given to each of them should respect the characteristics of the area of intervention and of the surrounding macro area, indicated in the diagnosis to be elaborated by the municipal or state public power, depending on the case, as described below:

a) Mobilization, organization and social strengthening - includes information, mobilization, organization and capacity building processes of the beneficiary population in order to promote autonomy and social protagonism, as well as the strengthening of existing organizations in the territory, the constitution and formalization of new representations and new channels of participation and social control.

b) Monitoring and social management of the intervention - aims to promote the management of the social actions necessary for the achievement of the intervention, including the monitoring, negotiation and interferences during its execution, as well as preparing and following up on the process by the community in order to minimize the negative aspects experienced by the beneficiaries and to highlight the gains brought along the process, contributing to the implementation of the Social Work.

c) Environmental and Patrimonial Education - aims to promote changes in attitudes towards the environment, the patrimony and a healthy life, strengthening the population`s critical perception about the aspects that influence their quality of life, as well as reflect on social, political, cultural and economic factors that determine their reality making it possible to reach the environmental and social sustainability of the intervention; and

d) Socioeconomic Development - Intends to articulate public policies, support and implement job and income generating initiatives, aiming towards productive, economic and social inclusion, in order to promote the increase of family income and the improvement of the life quality of the population, fostering conditions for a medium and long term socio-territorial development process.

The result of the Brazilian government`s housing programs draws attention not only because of its concept and guidelines, but also due to its significant results accumulated to this date and the large amount of resources invested.

The Slum Upgrading Program, since its beginning in 2007, has provided assistance to approximately 2 million families with integrated actions of construction and improvement of housing units, sanitation, infrastructure, public services, social work, land regularization and recovery of degraded areas. The total investments made in this program are approximately R$ 33.5 billion.

On the other hand, The "My House, My Life Program", which began in 2009, has contracted more than 4.8 million housing units in urban and rural areas in the Brazilian states. The housing units are distributed in 5,379 municipalities, which represents 97% of the national territory, with investments that amount to approximately R$ 370 billion.

Besides the housing issue itself, the Government has, over the years, developed important actions directed towards the technological innovation in the field of quality of construction improvements; increasing accessibility and urban mobility, traffic safety, land regularization, risk mitigation and access to environmental sanitation, whose actions are supported by the government.

In addition, we draw attention to the internet page called "Capacidades", which provides, free of charge, training in the various dimensions of urban planning, contributing to the improvement of the actions of the local power and other actors.