

Brazilian National Statement of Commitment

The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil presents its commitment to education and recognizes its fundamental role for sustainable human and economic development worldwide. In Brazil, lifelong education is constitutionally a right for all and a responsibility of the State, the family, and the entire society.

The adherence to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflects the recognition that the milestones established therein must be evaluated by countries in order to establish actions and public policies aimed at ensuring quality education for all. In Brazil, convergences are evident between the National Education Plan, instituted by federal law in 2014, and the SDG 4.

The decentralized and autonomous constitutional organization of the educational systems in the country demands from the national government a collaborative action among the federated entities, integrating and coordinating actions in all stages of education and promoting strategies and investments that aim at reducing regional inequalities.

Brazilian education has approximately 2.6 million teachers, 187 thousand teaching institutions, and 59 million students. In basic education, there are about 2.2 million teachers, 178.3 thousand schools, and 46 million students, of which 84% are in the public school system. The challenges inherent in managing this large system were magnified when considering the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the last two years, Brazil has prioritized actions to face the impacts of the pandemic. The Ministry of Education has invested in emergency strategies of school safety guidance accompanied by financial transfers for the implementation of protocols. During this period, investments in technological infrastructure for public schools and digital inclusion of students and teachers exceeded the 4.5 billion reais mark.

Nationwide surveys and tests conducted in 2021 and 2022 have brought valuable information about the impact of the pandemic on the access, trajectory, and learning of Brazilian students. Based on this information and on the active listening that the national government promoted with educational leaders in the five macro-regions of the country, the National Policy for Learning Recovery in Basic Education was designed and published via presidential decree in May, 2022.

The Policy brings in its scope personalized strategies for learning recovery with intensive use of digital resources and artificial intelligence, active school search, curricular adaptation, diagnostic assessments, teacher training, and structured teaching materials. Furthermore, it takes into consideration the guidelines of the National Literacy Policy in the quest to raise the quality of literacy and to fight illiteracy throughout the Brazilian territory.

Besides these actions, the government sought the partnership of national institutions, public and private ones, and international organizations to expand the technical and financial assistance, especially for the most vulnerable regions of the country, located in the North and Northeast.

The actions and programs that make up these Policies are the expressions of the Brazilian government's commitment to the rapid recovery of learning and to the strategic repositioning of educational systems for the future of education.

The programs and actions that have been implemented by the government combine technology and innovation as partners for managers, teachers, students, and families. The Connected Education Innovation Policy, which aims to support the universalization of high-speed internet access and encourage the pedagogical use of digital technologies in basic education, reached the mark of 94 thousand schools benefited and Brazil is moving towards universal access to high-speed internet in their schools by the end of 2024.

The Basic Education Creativity and Innovation Laboratories and the Innovation Network for Hybrid Education are initiatives that represent Brazil's commitment to developing technical capacity and strengthening the infrastructure of states and municipalities for the development of digital educational resources and for offering flexible and innovative school pathways, creating a national network of collaboration and benchmarking.

As for valuing teachers, the commitment is to promote the qualification and improvement of working conditions. In 2022, Brazil increased the national salary floor for basic education teachers by 33.24%, the highest adjustment in history. The initial and continuing education of teachers has received special attention in the strategies implemented by Brazil. The virtual learning environment has more than 3.7 million course attendees enrolled in more than 260 courses currently available.

Brazil reinforces its commitment to universalize access to education from ages 4 to 17 and to promote actions to increase the time of studying and learning throughout life. With the implementation of the Common National Curricular Base (BNCC) nationwide, education for sustainable development has become more present in the classroom. Allied to the update of subnational curricula, learning by skills and abilities, and curricular flexibility in high school, the implementation of the BNCC contributes to literacy at the right age. Besides, it promotes youth protagonism, preparing young people for the exercise of citizenship and for professional insertion.

Quality education involves ensuring adequate conditions. Therefore, Brazil is committed to the continuity and strengthening of national programs of technical and financial support that involve school feeding, support for transportation, selection and distribution of books and materials, and physical maintenance of public schools.

These actions and results are possible because Brazil has been committed to guarantee financing for education. Between 2000 and 2018, Brazil increased investments in education from 4.6% to 6.2% of GDP. In 2020, a constitutional amendment improved the Fund for Maintenance and Development of Basic Education and Valorization of Education Professionals (Fundeb). By increasing the transfer of resources from the Union, this amendment contributed to the fulfillment of the redistributive function of the Brazilian State, reducing socioeconomic and regional inequalities. In this way, the country demonstrates that it has maintained a level of educational funding compatible with the commitment made in the Incheon Declaration.

In congratulating the United Nations General Secretariat for the initiative of holding the Education Transformation Summit, Brazil reiterates its commitment to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all, while joining other Member States in hoping that future commitments can address the challenges of education in the 21st century.