

## The Federative Republic of Brazil

### Positions for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Committee

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#### I. Ensuring the Rights and Safety of Refugee Children

The Federative Republic of Brazil recognizes the significance of ensuring the rights and safety of refugee children and how refugee children's specific and individualistic needs must be prioritized among Member States so that those needs are met and those children are not forgotten or dismissed. Brazil is committed to seeing the needs of refugees met and has continued to reiterate that position through actions as well as words. Domestically, Brazil has taken steps to see that youth refugees are provided for. In 1997, the nondiscriminatory Refugee Act (Law N° 9474/97) was made into Brazilian law allowing refugees to not only seek asylum in Brazil, but to be allowed receive public education and health benefits from Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). Policies implemented by Brazil's National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) have provided critical necessities for all refugees but especially for vulnerable children coming from extreme situations. Unaccompanied refugee children in Brazil are also by law provided with a court determined guardians or are reconnected with family upon arrival and are integrated into Brazilian culture with the help of local NGOs which teach language courses, provide counseling, and are ways for refugee children to connect. Regionally, Brazil has collaborated with neighboring nations to bring attention to the concerns of refugee children. Brazil has reiterated its recognition of the dangers of travel for unaccompanied minors and the concerns they face with other Latin American and Caribbean nations in the 2014 Brazil Declaration. Internationally, Brazil has demonstrated its dedication to the futures of Syrian children in a \$300,000 donation to the "No Lost Generation" strategy by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for education and protection. Brazil has also taken steps to ensure that all Syrian refugees are given a chance of asylum by permitting access to the country through humanitarian visas. Brazil recognizes the unique struggles that youth refugees face and the traumas that come as a result of experiencing the abnormalities generated by war and being forced to flee. Brazil offers the proposal of the action plan **H.O.P.E.** **H, health:** work with other Member States to promote health services to be provided for all children to accommodate any mental trauma that they might experience as well as provide any physical healthcare they might need. **O, open borders:** to recognize the unique risk that refugee children, especially unaccompanied minors, face and call for established guidelines in which refugee children might enter countries in easier, faster ways. **P, protection:** work with local and international NGOs and promote international cooperation to establish ways in which unaccompanied refugee may be tracked and easily moved/escorted to asylum countries with official guides. **E, education:** recognize the fundamental right to education should be provided without discrimination and that by providing education to young refugees a generation of young people from a tumultuous region are not subjected to being unprepared for their futures and recommend the use of NGOs for more protected educators be brought in to countries where they are most needed.

#### II. Protection and Proper Repatriation of Refugees

The Federative Republic of Brazil is unwavering in its commitment to the protection of refugees and recognizes the continued importance of the Voluntary Repatriation Programme. Nationally, Brazil has taken steps to ensure the protection of refugees in Brazil. Brazil has implemented a national law for refugees, the Refugee Act (Law N° 9474/97) guarantees the protection of refugees against discrimination. The Refugee Law has led to the creation of the Brazil's National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) which has been irreplaceable for Brazil by providing a direct link between refugees, the UNHCR, and the Brazilian government. CONARE combined with NGOs have provided services to make the process of coming to Brazil safer as well as providing services to help integrate refugees into the Brazilian lifestyle. Brazil has exemplified its commitment to the current refugee crisis in Syria and the implementation in 2013 of Normative Resolution No. 17 and its extension in 2015 Normative Resolution No. 20 which has provided Syrian refugees seeking asylum a unique entry under a humanitarian visa and access to public facilities like health care, education, and the job market while waiting for confirmation of their refugee status. Regionally, Brazil and Latin American and Caribbean Member States have built on previous declarations for the protection of refugees such as the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, the 1994 San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons and the 2004 Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America to create the current regional agreement in the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action of 2014. Brazil's reaffirmed its commitment to the "Voluntary Repatriation" Programme in the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, however Brazil also advocates the option of resettlement in the Solidarity Resettlement Programme as an alternative. By having and supporting both options, refugees from all over the world that face different circumstances are provided with opportunities and support for both. Brazil also reiterated its position with regional countries in The Mercosur Declaration of Principles on International Refugee Protection. Internationally, Brazil continues to maintain its commitments to the protection of refugees by maintaining its commitment to sending aid to the UNHCR and opening its borders to over 8,000 and counting refugees from countries including Syria, Colombia, and the African countries of Nigeria, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo with nearly 2,300 issued to Syrians with humanitarian visas. Brazil will continue to allow Syrian refugees to arrive via the humanitarian visas. Brazil has adopted *GA/11820* with acting President Michel Temer noting at the assembly that the crisis "is a shared responsibility."<sup>1</sup> Brazil proposes that Member States adopt protections and programs in which refugees will have the ability to gain access to benefits more rapidly that will allow them to integrate into the societies and add normalcy into refugees' disrupted lives and for more options to be considered when looking at long term solutions for refugees.

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<sup>1</sup>"General Assembly Adopts Declaration For Refugees And Migrants, As United Nations, International Organization For Migration Sign Key Agreement | Meetings Coverage And Press Releases; Brazil". 2016. Un.Org. Accessed November 4 2016. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm>.