



BRAZIL

55th Commission on the Status of Women (CSWV)

General Debate

New York, 22 February 2011

Statement by H. E. Minister **Luiz Fuchs**

Secretary of Women

Federative Republic of Brazil

(Check against delivery)



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25th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) General Debate

New York, 22 February 2011

Statement by H. E. Minister Iriny Lopes
Secretary of Policies for Women

representative of the Government of Brazil

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It gives me great pleasure to participate for the first time in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Brazil is now experiencing a historical moment with the election of Dilma Rousseff as the first woman President and the appointment of nine female ministers to integrate her government. We have never had 30 women occupying the highest Federal Executive

We are also proud to have, for the first time, of a Brazilian woman, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Vianna, presiding over the United Nations

The United Nations is also experiencing a unique moment with the new composition of UN-Women. Brazil is also proud of being a member of the first composition of the new Entity's Executive Board.

In the speech given when she was declared elected, President Dilma Rousseff announced one of her priorities: "to honor Brazilian women so that this never before became in the future a natural event and that it may be replicated in the private sector, in civil society, in non-governmental organizations." And she added: "The equality of opportunities for men and women is an essential principle of democracy. We will help our mothers and fathers to show today into their daughters' eyes and us, YES, and say, YES, a woman can"

Coincidentally, the priority of the CSW is the participation of women in science and technology. The theme in question constitutes one of the priorities of the Ministry and of the Brazilian Government as a whole.

The central commitment of President Dilma's Government, expressed in its slogan "A RÍCA COINTELY, IS A COINTELY WITH NO COINTELYS" is to eradicate extreme poverty and create opportunities for all.

We are convinced that we cannot eliminate poverty without making substantial investments in education, science, technology and innovation. As our President put it: "we must fight poverty, which is the most acute form of backwardness, and at the same time advance by significantly investing in the technological, industrial and digital production."

We are also convinced that we cannot eradicate poverty without facing the so-called structuring inequalities of gender and race. For this reason, the Secretariat of Policies for Women defines the Government's priority as "to promote the economic, social and political autonomy of women, taking into account the differences that exist among women themselves. We welcome in this regard the General Assembly Resolution that proclaimed 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent."

In this context, we must formulate and implement policies that broaden the horizons and create new opportunities for women, including through the production of knowledge to the benefit of social equality, citizenship and the full enjoyment of women's rights.

We must work together to build the countries we wish to have in the future, with the full participation of social and women's movements, male and female workers, entrepreneurs, minorities, people of African descent, the young and all men and women who fight to overcome different forms of discrimination.

In the end of this year, we will hold the Third National Conference of Policies of Women, which will be a priority occasion to evaluate progress and define new priorities for the National Plan of Policies for Women, with a view to contributing in an effective way to address gender inequalities and eradicate extreme poverty from a gender perspective.

A broad democracy demands attitudes, reasons, abilities and commitments of its governing officials, men and women, male and female, irrespective of age, religion or race. For a democracy to be fully exercised by all, men and women must have real opportunities for personal growth. All men and women need to have their basic rights ensured: their right to work, to receive work, quality education, health and culture. Important steps have been and are still being taken in this regard, but we still have a long way to go in the path towards real gender equality.

Moreover, the international instruments we signed – for example, the Consensus of Mexico, the Plan of Brasilia, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention of Belém do Pará – should serve as a guide on the formulation and implementation of public policies.

All these instruments should also inspire and stimulate the elaboration of new international parameters, such as the proposal of the Inter-American Convention on Gender and Productive Rights and an international Convention on Domestic Work.

Our foreign policy will continue to be based on the association of the Brazilian people with the promotion of peace, respect for the principles of non-intervention, self-determination, sovereignty and mutual respect. Brazil will continue on the side of those men and women who seek the strengthening of democracy, which demands full and effective participation of all women.

Thank you.