

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

December 2021 | 1st Edition



RESILIENCE .

What has the
world learned
from Covid-19?

Office of
Foreign Affairs



”
**TAKE BRASILIA TO THE
WORLD**
**AND BRING THE WORLD TO
BRASILIA**

Brasilia, december 2021

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The year of 2021 at EAI through BIM
Office of Foreign Affairs



"To bring the world to Brasília and to take Brasília to the world": this is the mission of the Office of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Federal District and from this commitment, the *International District Magazine*, was born, still in a digital format.

The title chosen for this publication reveals its purpose of promoting Brasília's foreign relations, creating a space for the exhibition of ideas and qualified reflections on the topics discussed, as well as delivering an institutional product of excellence to the population of the Federal District and to the numerous international community that lives in the Capital.

This purpose is similar to that of the "Brasília Magazine", published monthly between 1957 and 1963 by the Urbanization Company of Brazil's New Capital - Novacap to document, inform and publicize the construction process of Brasília, at that time a city yet to be known by Brazil and the world.

To honor that pioneering spirit, the *International District* brings in its pages photographs, and articles from some of the 44 editions of that historic magazine, which today is part of the Public Fund of the Public Archive of the Federal District (ArPDF), recognized as World Documentary Heritage by UNESCO.

This magazine will be published twice a year. Each issue will address themes of global relevance, and its articles will be written by representatives from the local and international community, who will present their points of view on the chosen topic.

For the inaugural edition of this project, we could not refrain from addressing the event that has impacted the lives of billions of people and that has defined the agendas of all governments, civil society, news media, and social networks around the world for the past two years: the Covid-19 pandemic. The intention is not to stress the evident and devastating effects of the pandemic but to provide a space to share lessons learned, and international legacies consolidated during this period.

Under the theme "*Resilience: what has the world learned from Covid-19?*", we feature the Governor of the Federal District, Ibaneis Rocha; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Carlos Alberto Franco França; the head of the European Union Delegation in Brazil, Ambassador Ignacio Ybáñez; the director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC, Carlos Mussi, and the pro tempore Rectorate of the Federal District University - UnDF, Professor Simone Benck.

The five articles show different points of view but, in their singularities, they meditate on the same questions: **how to respond to a global humanitarian crisis capable of affecting all spheres of societies and still draw good lessons from this challenging period?**

In addition, at the end of this edition, we include a small retrospective of the work of the Office of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Federal District throughout 2021 as reflected in our main communication tool: the International Monthly Bulletin (BIM). In a timeline, we highlight the themes of each analysis carried out and some of the events that took place each month within the international community.

The *International District* is an opportunity to navigate through different perspectives and qualified lenses of people who live in the city of Brasília and forge it as a global city.

Enjoy!

Renata Zuquin
Head of the Office of Foreign Affairs



A man reads a newspaper, which usually arrived by plane in Brasília

IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

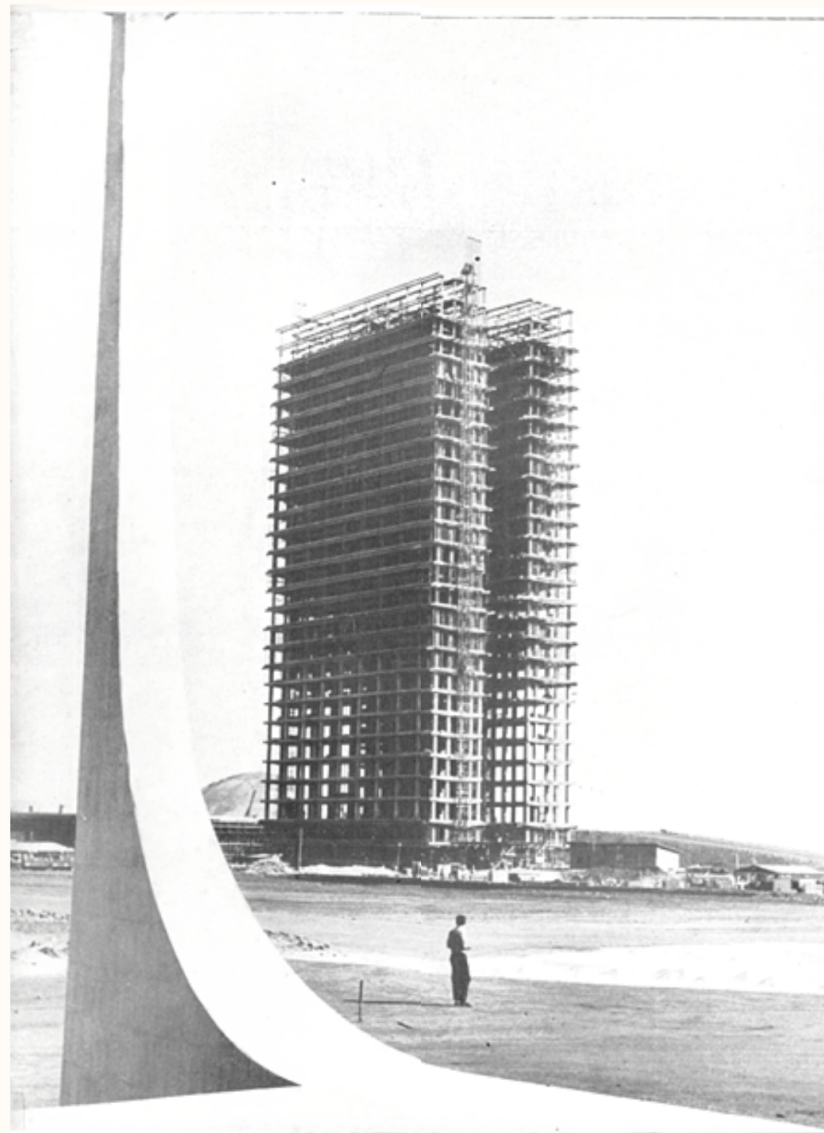
Ibaneis Rocha
Governor of the Federal District

In April 1960, then-President Juscelino Kubitschek was writing a remarkable chapter in Brazilian history: he established the country's new capital. Brasília, the “promised land” of Don Bosco's prophecies, materialized exactly between the 15th and 20th parallels on the globe, as in his historical dream, featured in the Constitutional Charter of an independent Brazil: a large city in its Central Plateau.

Symbol of an era of an unshakable belief in the enterprising and daring spirit of the Brazilian people, the modernist city was planned with innovative urban and social concepts, to which popular traditions from all corners of the country were added.

A stage for political decisions that influence more than 200 million lives, the city prepared itself to, in 2020, embrace residents and visitors in the commemoration of its 60th anniversary, which would have included a whole year worth of cultural activities in the Federal District, in Brazil and abroad, through the promotion of events to be held with the help of Brazilian embassies around the world.

However, the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the need for a drastic change to these plans. Based on science and based on the international guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO), we immediately reoriented our efforts and established the containment of the new coronavirus as top priority. We acted assertively to face the health, social and economic impacts resulting from this crisis.



Construction of the National Congress

Since then, the Government of the Federal District has implemented several actions in line with the precepts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure minimum conditions for subsistence, health, education, security, and access to basic services offered by the Government to the population, which I now list.

We were the first Brazilian federative unit to impose restrictive measures on the functioning of commercial activities and the movement of people. As soon as the first cases of the disease were registered, we decreed an emergency in the scope of public health in order to speed up government purchases of medicines, equipment, and essential supplies.

Concerning health care, three hospital structures were made available on an emergency basis, adding around 350 beds to the Covid-19 care system. We also inaugurated a hospital in the Papuda Penitentiary Complex to exclusively serve the prison population, a public highly vulnerable to contagion. In addition, to avoid the formation of queues and crowding in the health units, we started to offer home delivery of the medicines necessary for the treatment of chronic, non-communicable diseases.

As for education, we quickly determined the suspension of in-person classes, but we ensured the continuity of the learning process implementing the *Escola em Casa DF* program — a virtual platform where students and teachers could interact in videoconferences, exchange messages, teaching materials, and assessments — in addition to maintaining school lunches through additional financial assistance.

In order to preserve a heated economy, we work to grant tax exemptions and debt remission, encouraging companies to create jobs through the *Emprega-DF* program. We also created

a credit line for artisans and developed the *Square City* platform to promote the commercialization of local crafts.

To guarantee fundamental social rights, we reduced the amounts paid for water and sewage by the most vulnerable population and created the Emergency Committee Against Covid-19, which had the support of the local public and private sectors, as well as the diplomatic bodies, enabling the donation of basic items to those in need.

We also launched the *Hotelaria Solidária* program, for the benefit of elderly people who did not have adequate places for isolation; we established housing for homeless people; and purchased products from local family farming, which were destined for people in a situation of food insecurity.

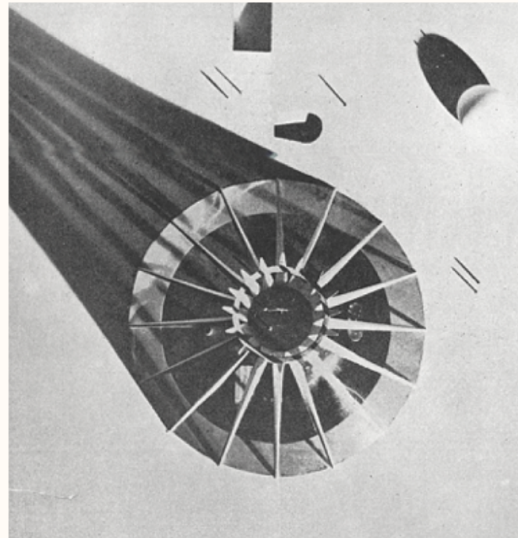
In addition, we created the *Prato Cheio* program, in order to guarantee adequate food for 29,000 low-income families, and we maintained the operation of 14 community restaurants, serving the most vulnerable population in the Federal District.

We paid special attention to women, who suffered an even more significant impact at the time of the pandemic, which aggravated their vulnerability to gender-based violence, instituting programs of remote police assistance and women's health, in addition to initiatives to economic stimulus to the female population.

Finally, it is important to mention that the cultural sector also benefited from the launch of the *Conecta Cultura* program and the *Mais Cultura* notice, distributing nearly 8 million Reais to projects selected in public competitions, stimulating the arts and the local economy.

So far, we have managed to fully immunize 80% of the population eligible to be vaccinated in the Federal District. As a result of this and the significant decrease in the number of new infections

Model of the Cathedral of Brasília



President Juscelino Kubitschek and Lucio Costa in the Monumental Avenue of Brasília



per day and daily deaths by the coronavirus, we started to ease measures of social distancing, the use of masks in open spaces, and we resumed in-person classes. As I see it, we are at the moment of resuming the development of our Capital, stimulating the economy, generating employment and income, and boosting education, which is so fundamental for building a more prosperous and promising future for our population.

The last few years will go down in world history as a challenging period, during which we have had to struggle with forbearance and resilience. Fortunately, with the extraordinary efforts of public agents and society, Brasília, the Capital of Hope, has demonstrated its capability of dealing firmly with the crisis and will be able to celebrate, together with the national and international community that it hosts, many other anniversaries, incorporating the arduous lessons of the present to its rich trajectory.

Ibaneis Rocha
Governor of the Federal District

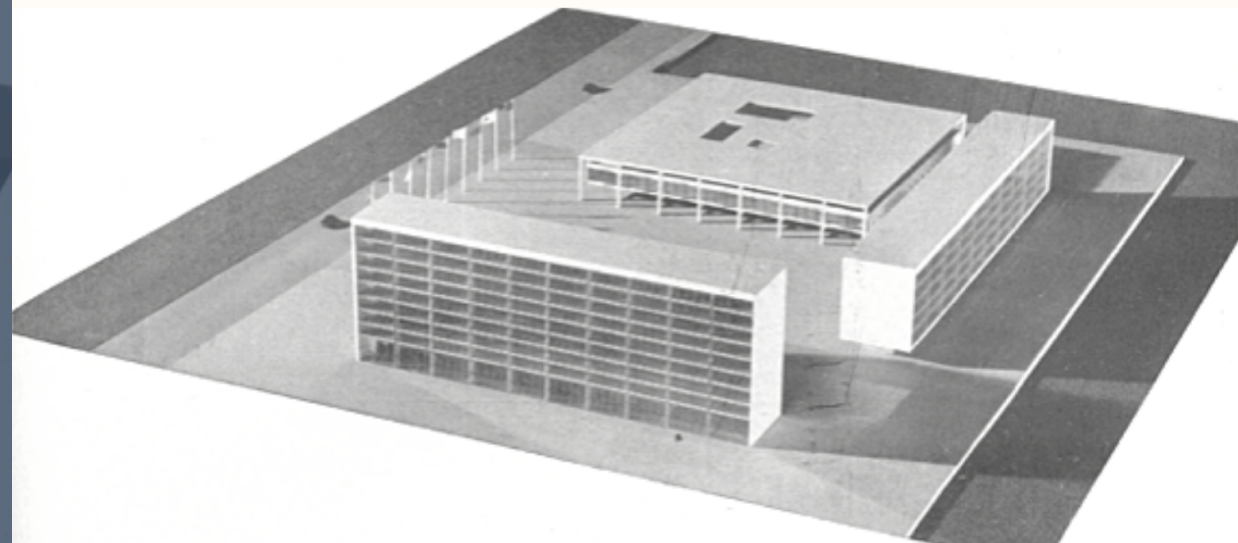


ITAMARATY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Ambassador
Carlos Alberto
Franco França
*Minister of Foreign
Affairs (*)*

() I extend my gratitude to the Government of the Federal District for the opportunity to share these notes and review some initiatives of Itamaraty that have been part of the government action of President Jair Bolsonaro since Covid-19 impacted the world. Commenting on the work that has been carried out represents an exercise in accountability and transparency, much needed in any mature democracy.*

Original model of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



More than 18 months after the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, officially declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, it is appropriate to appraise, albeit partially, what the Brazilian diplomacy has done to face the challenge it has imposed on Brazil and the world.

It is difficult to measure the impact caused by the pandemic in terms of loss of life, economic damage, and increasing international instability. Millions of casualties, closed schools, separated families, restrictions on travel and displacements in general, the virtual shutdown of entire sectors of the global economy, and the biggest recession since World War II. It was in this context that I assumed the honorable task entrusted to me by President Jair Bolsonaro to lead the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From the beginning, health diplomacy was placed at the top of our priorities, as it should be, side by side with the economic recovery and the efforts for sustainable development.

It has been a period of enormous challenges but, more importantly, of learning and intense work. We moved, in only a few weeks, from the tasks of problem identification, diagnosis, and analysis to activities of capacity building, risk mitigation, and elaboration of responses. It has been a true exercise of crisis management, requiring creativity, dynamism, and adaptation from us.



Exhibitions about Brasília abroad

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shown resilience to the presented challenges and demonstrated its ability to defend the national interest and to provide quality services to Brazilian citizens.

In this unprecedented moment for our generation, have been able to once again verify the merits of the Constitution when establishing the principles that govern our international relations, with an emphasis on “cooperation among peoples for the progress of humanity”. Under this ideal, Itamaraty has developed important initiatives, which, without a doubt, have helped in the national mobilization to contain the virus and its negative effects on Brazilian people’s lives.

Brazil's traditional international presence in the health field has been strengthened and improved. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health have acted hand in hand in this effort, aimed at exchanging information, discussing good practices, obtaining medicines and hospital supplies, and developing and acquiring vaccines against Covid-19.

Itamaraty has acted decisively to import immunization doses and the substances needed for their production (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient – API). One cannot fail to emphasize the role played by donations at the height of the fight against the pandemic. Itamaraty has coordinated the offers received by Brazil from friendly nations, including medicines, personal protective equipment, and laboratory machines. We have also been able to give our contribution, by responding to requests from 24 partner countries, mainly through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), which in 2020 received extraordinary

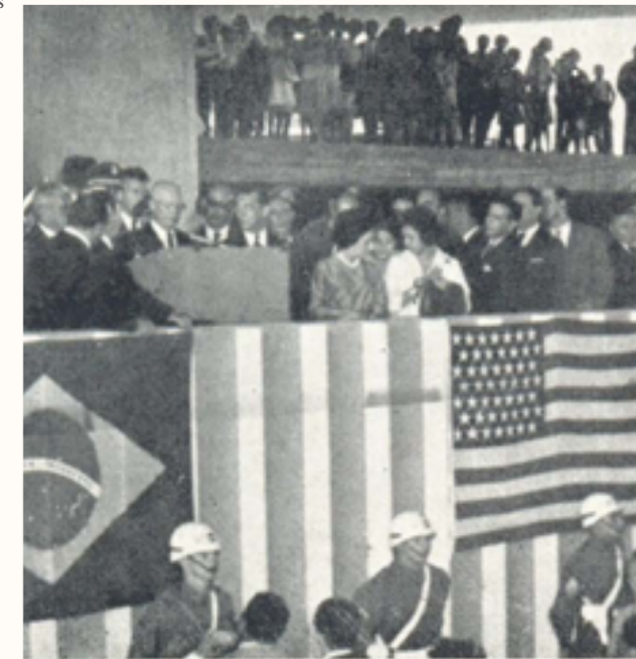
resources in the amount of BRL 28 million for exclusive use in international humanitarian cooperation actions to confront Covid-19.

Brazil has been working both on the development of its own vaccines and on the creation of technological capacity to produce components of foreign vaccines used in the country. We intend to supply immunization doses to other countries as soon as domestic production allows us, giving priority to our partners in Latin America.

One of President Bolsonaro’s central directives in dealing with the pandemic is that our work should aim at protecting both health and jobs. Bearing this in mind, Itamaraty has made extensive use of economic diplomacy to seek conditions to support the Brazilian economy, to ensure access to strategic inputs for the fight against the crisis, and the ability to acquire technology for vaccines.

In the debate on intellectual property within the WTO, Brazil has underlined that a possible decision to relax TRIPS Agreement’s protections (be it a moratorium, the expansion of the Agreement’s flexibilities, or a hybrid solution) should be implemented as soon as possible, in order to contribute to the production of vaccines and other treatments to fight the pandemic.

Also in 2020, at the multilateral level, together with the other G20 members, Brazil has supported the document "G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment in Response to Covid-19", which provides for collective actions in trade regulation and facilitation, transparency, operation of logistical networks, support for micro, small and medium-sized companies, support for the multilateral trade system, resilience-building in global value chains and strengthening international investments.



Makeshift platform at the Brasília bus station for then United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower

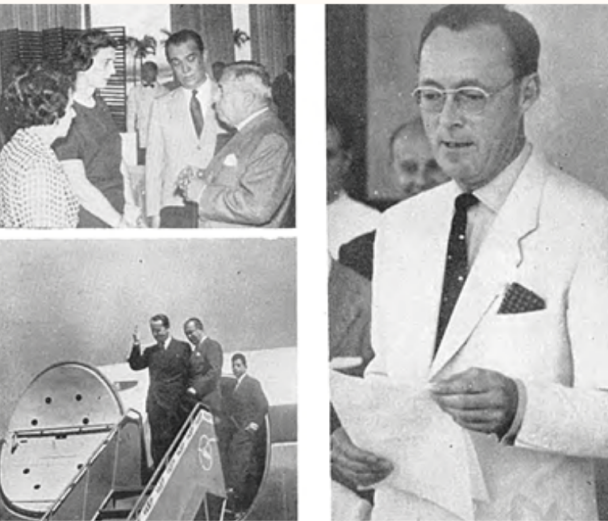
Our participation in multilateral and regional development banks has also channeled the relevant contribution that such institutions can provide to member countries. Within the External Financing Commission (COFIEX), a national collegiate body in which Itamaraty participates, the highlight was the approval of the “Emergency Program to Support the Income of Vulnerable Populations Affected by Covid-19 in Brazil”, with financing from six of those organizations, totaling US\$4 billion, which significantly contributed to the implementation of public policies in the three spheres of the federation.

Another area in which Itamaraty has acted intensively in the fight against the pandemic was the consular service. It is hard to imagine any period in recent decades when consular diplomacy was in as much demand as it was in the early stages of the pandemic. Without much planning, unilateral measures were adopted overnight by dozens of countries. Thousands of Brazilians on foreign soil were taken by surprise.

We had to redouble our efforts in the consular area to assist Brazilian expatriates who turned to our offices for assistance. As a member of the Brazilian government’s Inter-Ministerial Executive Group on Public Health Emergency of National and International Importance, Itamaraty engaged with this inter-agency mechanism to collect and systematize information on the volume of Brazilians

retained abroad as a result of the health emergency.

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we created working groups for "Emergency consular assistance", which were organized by regions, and we designated officers who were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help the public, through telephone numbers disclosed on our social networks and other institutional channels. These efforts enabled the Brazilian government to repatriate more than 38,800 nationals stranded abroad. Of this total, more than 8,000 Brazilians were repatriated on 37 flights chartered directly by the Ministry, coming from around 100 countries, using



International visits to Brasilia in 1959

resources granted by executive orders edited by President Bolsonaro.

The crisis that humanity is yet to overcome exposed our weaknesses and the risks we are subject to. If there is one thing we – both, organizations and individuals – certainly need to internalize in our work, it is the importance of the unpredictable and the influence it has on the work we do every day.

I believe more analytical effort is needed to understand the nature of the crises we are likely to face in the future. Until recently, we used to think that major threats to the security and stability of international relations would be the result of military clashes, terrorist attacks, economic shocks, and other related factors.

The pandemic appears to have considerably expanded the awareness of the challenges we will have to address. We will have to pay attention to issues ranging from the emergence of zoonoses to environmental disasters, cybersecurity and climate change. Understanding such problems demands a multidisciplinary approach, and the capacity to solve them depends on the coordinated action of the State, involving the three branches of power and the three levels of government, always in dialogue and collaboration with the different segments of our society.

Ambassador Carlos Alberto Franco França
Minister of Foreign Affairs



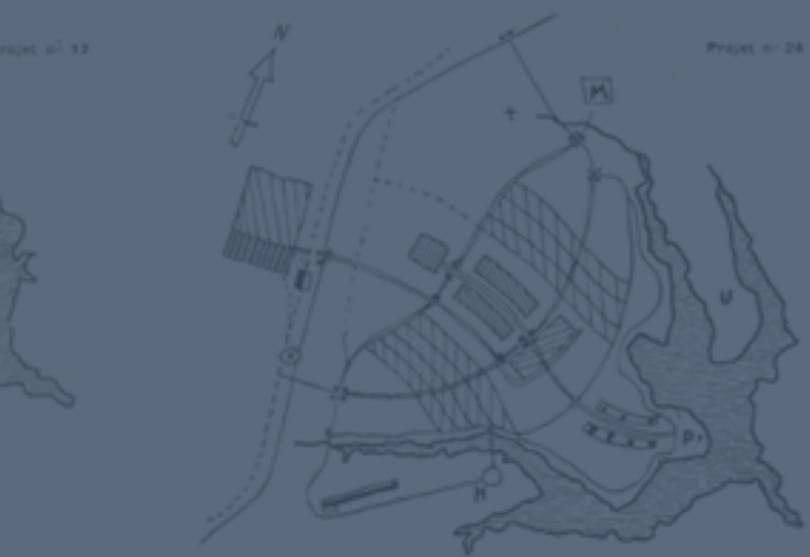
Visit of Japanese princes to Brasilia



STRATEGIC PARTERSHIP UNITES THE EUROPEAN UNION AND BRAZIL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Ambassador Ignacio Ybáñez
Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil

NOUVELLE CAPITALE DU BRÉSIL



Construction of the National Congress

The European Union has made significant efforts as “Team Europe” to support partner countries in the fight against Covid-19 – during all the phases of the pandemic. The aim has been to combine resources from the EU, its Member States, and European financial institutions. The virus knows no boundaries; as long as it exists somewhere in the world, it remains a threat to public health everywhere, and therefore Brazil and the European Union have understood, at an early stage, that fighting the pandemic together is in everyone's interest. In the end, we will probably have to learn to live with this virus. This is not only a lesson of resilience, but also solidarity. Solidarity, cohesion, and convergence are the basic principles of the European Union's response, both internally and in cooperation with its partners. And the pandemic has taught us all – by its longevity - lessons of how to be resilient.

The European Union is - long before the pandemic - a strong defender and supporter of international cooperation, multilateralism, and notably the World Health Organization (WHO) in its crucial role in the fight against Covid-19. The EU and the Member States are among the world's leading donors of international emergency aid. In these times, the exchange of experience, scientific cooperation, solidarity, and the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable are actions that helped and are helping us get out of this unprecedented crisis and guide us towards an inclusive recovery for all – on all continents. This is why, despite our difficulties during the pandemic, the European Union had decided to mobilize resources swiftly from its cooperation programs in the Latin America and Caribbean region, as part of the global response to combat Covid-19. The COVAX facility managed by GAVI is instrumental in making the Covid-19 vaccine accessible to vulnerable groups in all parts of the world.

The EU and EUMS are the main donors with 2.47 billion euros. European investments have accelerated the development and production of vaccines, contributing not only to the control of the epidemic in the European Union but also in the rest of the world. Brazil has also signed up the COVAX Facility and contributed to immunizing its population. The global efforts to make vaccines even more accessible to all countries aimed at getting out of the devastating global health crisis have been largely successful in many parts of the world. However, the situation remains dynamic.

In its Strategic Partnership with Brazil, the European Union is committed to continued cooperation in the search for solutions that mitigate the human and socioeconomic costs of this crisis and also help during the time of recovery and rebuilding. All the representations of the EU member countries in Brazil are involved in actions to tackle the effects of the pandemic. Many examples of actions taken to fight against Covid-19 prove this continuous effort. The European Union Delegation in Brazil and the Embassies of the Member States of the European Union join efforts with Brazilian institutions to accommodate the various demands of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The support actions had two strands: Firstly, physical emergency aid provided mainly through existing projects financed by the European Union and its Member States. Work plans were adjusted



Section of the "Brasília Magazine" dedicated to the dissemination of Brasília abroad

to include actions to prevent and combat the pandemic. Projects included, for example, information campaigns on the pandemic, basic food baskets, and hygiene materials. 70 actions were supported for the amount of 22.6 million euros in grants. Secondly, the European Union financial institutions had mobilized € 635 million in loans, for example, to support the government's emergency aid programs or to aid the economic recovery of micro and small businesses in north-eastern Brazil. And these efforts and initiatives are still ongoing.

The European Union understands that now, at what is hopefully the final wave of the pandemic, resilience to overcome the global economic crisis caused by the pandemic is essential. It requires solidarity and perseverance. Because the degree of interconnection of the world's economies is very high. As Josep Borrell, who has just returned from an official visit to Brazil, said in his blog some time ago, "We are all in the same boat (...)" and insisted "(...) how to address Covid-19 at a global level and how to ensure a fair distribution of vaccines, together with a just and sustainable recovery."

Ambassador Ignacio Ybáñez
Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil.



Construcción del Palácio del Planalto

THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WITH COVID-19

Carlos Mussi

Director of the ECLAC Office in Brazil ()*

() The opinions contained in this article are those of the author and do not represent the position of the institution where he works.*



Future generations will look at the early 2020s on how humanity was able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be mentioned how the development of vaccines was achieved in record time, in just over a year since the first case of the disease. On the other hand, several studies will recover the difficulties to build a worldwide collaboration to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. It will be clear how inequalities or asymmetries arising from the responses of governments in different countries and the access and application of vaccines in different regions of the world cost loss of life and deterioration of economies. Latin America and the Caribbean will be featured in these analyses.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has recorded, through its studies, the evolution of COVID-19 in the region in its various aspects, especially in health, production, employment, income, and increase of inequalities and structural constraints in our society.

Until the end of November 2021, Covid-19 had registered 265.3 million cases and 5.3 million deaths worldwide. In Latin America and the Caribbean, in the same period, a total of 47.0 million cases and 1.6 million deaths were recorded. For a region that is home to 8.4% of the world's population, we had 17.7% of cases and 30.2% of deaths. These results confirm our difficulty in adapting to changes in our habits towards social distancing, in the use of masks and personal protective equipment, and especially in the suspension of productive and social activities or “lockdown”.

The number of cases that occurred in the different waves of Covid-19 led to the collapse of health systems, increasing its risks for sick people. The region started vaccination late and unequally, but as soon as it did, despite difficulties in some countries, the population has sought the vaccine given the availability that exists today.

On the same note, this dramatic evolution led to similar losses in the economy. In 2020, the region's gross domestic product fell -6.8%, the regional unemployment rate rose to 11.9% (in Brazil to more than 14%), the participation rate dropped to 57%. It is estimated that 24.8 million jobs were lost between 2019 and 2020. Women were the most impacted, with 13 million leaving the labor market, reducing their participation rate to 57%. It is evident that the loss of these jobs was substantial in the informal market. Of the jobs closed in Brazil, 78.8% were in the informal sector.

In 2021, what we see is slow and non-transforming recovery. In summary, difficulties brought by Covid-19 have accentuated the region's growth constraints since the 2008 Financial Crisis and reversed some gains in reducing inequalities seen in the region since the 1990s. For example, much of the recovery we are seeing this year – estimated, for the region, at something close to 5% – is just a resumption of last year's decline. In 2022, we will return to a trajectory of very low growth. The five-year period between 2014 and 2019 resulted in the lowest average growth rate since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 2019, there is a gradual setback in poverty and inequality indicators in several countries in the region.

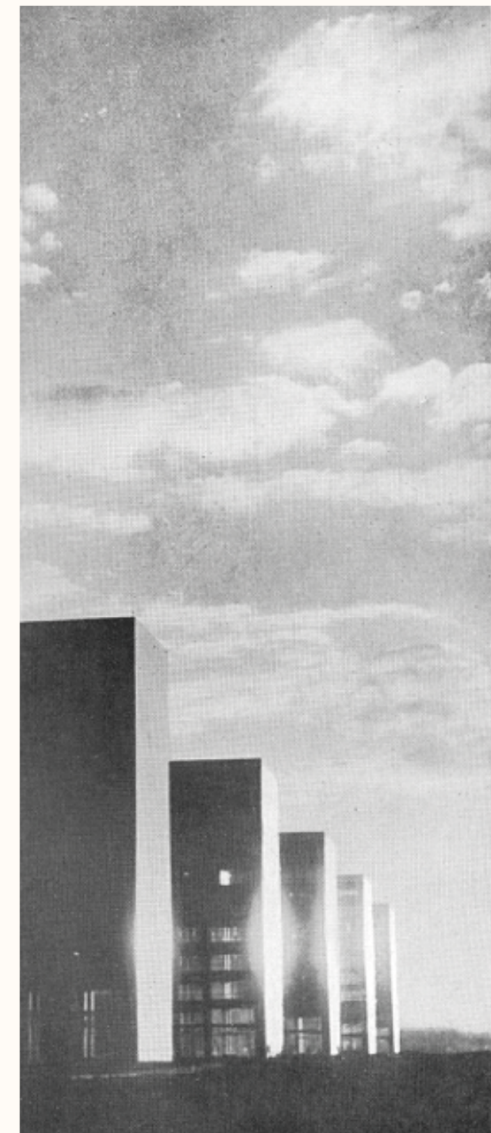
It was clear, before the pandemic, that Latin America and the Caribbean should recognize that their style of development is unsustainable in all its forms. There is no productive and progressive transformation that would lead us to sustainable development.

Since 2016, ECLAC has alerted and presented a methodology and proposal for us to debate styles of development. Let it be clear that ECLAC does not have a single style of sustainable development to be applied in all countries in the region. The objective is to build a broad and democratic dialogue about the future of each Latin American and Caribbean country.

The first step in this quest for a new style of development is the recognition of facts that are beyond our immediate control. The first is the demographic change in our region, especially in Brazil. We will experience the fastest aging rate in the world. In a few years, a considerable part of our population will be over 60 years old, with the oldest (80+ years old) equal to or greater than children and adolescents (0 to 20 years old). Another change that was accelerated with the Covid-19 is the technological one. The digital revolution has been introduced into every aspect of our professional and personal lives. There is a new international scene with new patterns of trade and finance. Covid-19 has consolidated China's position in these standards, whether in the changes in production and distribution chains or in the accumulation of financial resources potentially available for new investments. Lastly, we cannot minimize the impact of climate change that we are seeing with the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and their impacts on agriculture and water resources.

Recognizing these exogenous conditions should bring three crucial points to the debate, in the form of basic questions: What and how can we produce? How and who will demand this production? And how to give sustainability to these options?

What to produce is not just a single technical function of bringing together capital, labor, and technology.



Esplanade of Ministries

It is necessary to seek efficiency and competitiveness, which requires increasing levels of productivity. It is necessary to analyze the availability of these resources, whether natural, demographic, financial, or technological. Furthermore, there is “destructive” innovation that generates new sectors and jobs, which alters competition and dynamism between sectors and countries.

Understanding how and who demands this production demands an analysis of the distribution of results of greater productivity among individuals, companies, and the community by the State. We know that supply itself does not generate its demand and business cycles bring instability. State action becomes present to attenuate and arbitrate the distributive conflict. This management is complex as it implies bringing convergence in public instruments such as fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies. Likewise, through democratic means, the form and levels of taxation, public spending, especially investment, and public debt charges, will be decided.

Finally, in recent years we have observed that investment decisions are not just a resolution of the fit between demand and supply. Modern society demands more sustainability. It is not just the issue of environmental governance, but also social inclusion and inequality between rich and poor.

How to answer these questions will be up to each country and its inhabitants. However, achieving this new style of development requires the search for a “great boost” of private and public investment, mainly through the coordination of this partnership in terms of goals, production and consumption patterns, financial resources, and promotion of greater knowledge of new technologies and innovations.

Carlos Mussi
Director of the ECLAC Office in Brazil



Construction of the Cathedral of Brasília



THE UNDF AND THE UTOPIAS NECESSARY FOR THE FEDERAL DISTRICT

Simone Benck

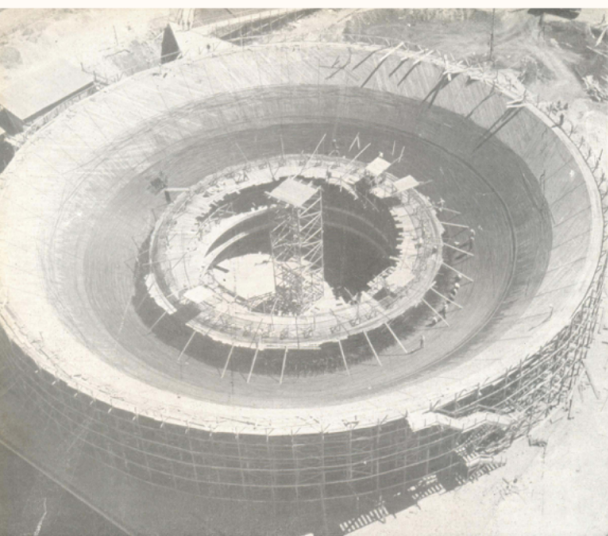
Doctor of Education from the State University of Campinas (Unicamp) and Pro Tempore Rector of the University of the Federal District Professor Jorge Amaury Maia Nunes (UnDF).

Lucas Máximo

Graduate in International Relations from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB) and Special Advisor to the Pro Tempore Rectory of the UnDF.

The construction of a new capital in the deserted amplitude of Planalto Central is an event to be understood in its most diverse nuances. As a singular adventure, Brasília's invention needs to be narrated in its entirety, either from the perspective of those who perceived the undertaking as a manifestation of the impulsive rapture of a political elite detached from the most urgent national problems, or from the perspective of those who glimpsed the Capital of Hope as a symbol of a nation's broad project in search of its ultimate path to development.

Among the different representations that can be given to the pulsating Brazilian capital, the fact is that Brasília has been continually reimagined and reinvented based on its original conceptions. When conceived simultaneously as *urbs* and *civitas* by Lucio Costa, Brasília was thought of not only as the maximum expression of the modernist movement but also as a living organism, monumentally endowed with aesthetic and cultural powers capable of shaping a new country. No wonder its project had as a central premise the imagination of "[...] a city planned for orderly and efficient work, but at the same time [...] proper to daydreaming and intellectual speculation" (BRASIL, 2018, p. 29).



Construction of the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies

It did not take long for the intellectual ebullition for which Lucio Costa was so enthusiastic to take over the Planalto Central wilderness, with education being the area that perhaps best shortened the sociopolitical reverie imagined for the city. Launched as a synthesis of the emancipatory project intended for the country, Brasília's utopia is necessarily confused with a certain educational utopia aspired, at that time, by intellectuals such as Anísio Teixeira and Darcy Ribeiro, concerned with developing in educational institutions the necessary tools for social inclusion and self-determination of the Brazilian people. As Sousa Júnior (2011, p. 9) points out, "for the first time in the country, the birth of a city could be



The beginning of education in the capital

planned simultaneously with its pedagogical project" and, thusly, the different visions of social transformation imbued to the idea of the new capital they were intrinsically incorporated into debates on the model of public education that would be implemented in Brasília, understood as a privileged locus for the formation of an intellectual elite oriented to overcoming national problems (MIGLIEVICH-RIBEIRO, 2017).

The authenticity of this educational thought was materialized, for example, in the architectural, urban, and pedagogical treatment given to school centers in Brasília, which should house, according to the originally conceived educational plan, "diverse functions and a considerable variety of form and objectives, to meet the specific needs of teaching and education and, in addition, the need for life and social interaction" (TEIXEIRA, 1961, p. 195). In the sphere of higher education, the pedagogical-institutional proposal defined for the University of Brasília (UnB), opened two years after the advent of the capital, synthesizes the critical and imaginative effort deposited in a new and distinguished academic institution, multidisciplinary in its essence, committed with citizenship-oriented education, based on the inseparability of theory and practice and, therefore, willing to converse with the new city, the country, and the world.

The concept of "[...] a model university, ahead of its time, innovative, in tune with the country's refoundation atmosphere" (BOMENY, 2016, n.p.), a mission embodied by the creators of UnB, remains an essential lighthouse for higher education designed in the Federal District and for the Federal District. As a grandiose project in its scope, ambitions, and effective deliveries, it is, like Brasília, naturally permeated by a utopian sense that deserves to be

celebrated, but also constantly rethought and remade amidst the continuities and discontinuities of history.

Almost sixty years after the inauguration of the first public higher education institution in the new capital, the educational utopia incessantly woven in Planalto Central gains a new relationship with the Federal District University Professor Jorge Amaury Maia Nunes - UnDF. By creating the district university in July 2021 (Complementary Law No. 987/2021), the Government of Federal District places an assertive bet on the institution, believing in its capacity to lead processes of generation, transfer, and dissemination of knowledge and in their driving force to foster local development.

In a unique moment in our history, in which we witness the value of the scientific method as a basic premise for combating the Covid-19 pandemic and in which, contradictorily, a scenario of retraction of systems of science, technology, and innovation (UNITED NATIONS, 2021), the Federal District promotes a broad institutionalization of its public higher education policy. In recent months, the federative unit has ceased to be part of the uncomfortable list of the four Brazilian

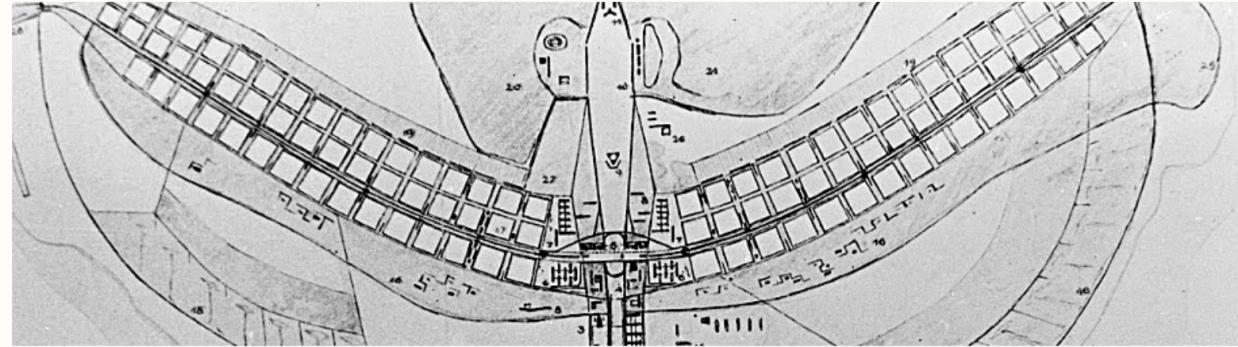
states that do not have a public university under their jurisdiction, establishing a career in public higher education (Law n° 6.969/2021) and guaranteeing investments in the order of R\$ 200 million over the next four years for the development of its university (Project Amendment to Organic Law No. 34/2021).

Amidst the opportunities and challenges that emerge from an undertaking of this nature and scale, UnDF must reflect, from the institution's early stages, on what its guiding utopias should be, adjusting them to the space and time that are ours. As Darcy Ribeiro (1982) accurately postulated, the university, before existing as a fact in the world of things, must exist as a project, an utopia, in the world of ideas.



Workers on their way to their hometowns

Sketch of the Pilot Plane



And, today, there is nothing more urgent and necessary for UnDF than dreaming its utopias based on the commitment assumed with the democratization of access to higher education.

Born in 2021, in a context of worsening socioeconomic inequalities at local, national, and global levels, UnDF cannot ignore the extreme discrepancy that characterizes the offer of higher education in the Federal District and the implications of this maladjustment for society as a whole.

Data produced by the Company of Planning of Federal District (Codeplan, in the Portuguese acronym) in the last District Household Sample Survey (2018) show that, while 76% of the high-income population have completed higher education, only 9.7% of the low-income population has the same level of formal education (DISTRITO FEDERAL, 2019). Furthermore, despite having the highest per capita household income among the federative units, according to 2019 data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Federal District also houses at least 124 thousand people between 15 and 29 years old who do not work nor study (CRUZ, 2020), forming an extensive contingent of young people who need to see higher education as a viable way to build life projects. Certainly, these realities were intensified by the pandemic and should be considered by the district's public higher education policy, under penalty of not realizing its full potential as an inducer of broader redistributive processes in society

The district's production of science, technology, and innovation can and should assert itself as a driver of local development, which is, therefore, the main starting point of the UnDF. Making the institution's teaching, research, and extension policies unfold inclusively and equitably, based on the articulation between different government actors, the productive sector, and society is the main foundation that illuminates the initial steps of the newly created university.

Initially designed to house 500,000 residents (BRASIL, 2018), today, the Capital of Hope is a vibrant metropolis of just over three million inhabitants. With radically different contours from those imagined by its creators, it is a place of several challenges, needs, and vocations that need to be embraced by UnDF with its own courage and determination. To provide the Federal District with its own university is to recover the emancipatory meaning revealed in Brasília's invention, indicating that, in this project of public, plural, and democratic higher education, a significant part of the redefinition of the direction of the district territory will reside.

Simone Benck and Lucas Máximo
Pro Tempore Rectors of the Federal District University
 Professor Jorge Amaury Maia Nunes (UnDF).



Inauguration of Brasília's first primary school

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The International Monthly Bulletin (BIM) is one of EAI's main public communication tools to optimize the cosmopolitan character of Brasília.

Below, we selected the topics and some of the highlights that were part of the monthly BIM posts, representing a brief summary of the Office's performance in 2021.

THE YEAR OF 2021 AT EAI

By clicking on each month, you will have access to each published edition!

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Launch of the DF Internacional Podcast;
- EAI wins the trophy for 100% transparency from the ITA (Active Transparency Index) of the Comptroller General of the Federal District;
- Virtual training on "Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Public Institutions" promoted by the National University of Distance Education (UNED).

JANUARY



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

- First Meeting of Directors of International Relations and Coordinators of the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI) in 2021 in Madrid;
- Meetings for the promotion of business and investments with international chambers of commerce;
- Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in alliance with the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, the Department of Health, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MARCH



2020

2021: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

- GDF joins the "Alliance for Climate Action Brazil" (ACA Brasil);
- Adoption of children's spaces in the Rehabilitation Center II of Taguatinga by the Embassy of Belgium;
- "Green Diplomacy Award for Youth" from the Delegation of the European Union in Brazil.

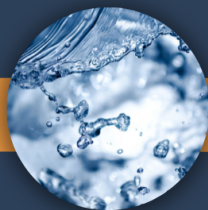
FEBRUARY

monthlyinternationalbulletin21

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL IN BRASILIA

- Brasilia's preparation to participate in the 2021 Brazil Investment Forum (BIF) organized by Apex-Brasil;
- Presentation of business opportunities in the Federal District to Portuguese authorities to attract investment;
- Announcement of the five winners of the contest "Green Diplomacy for Youth - Environment: action is urgent!", one of them being from Brasilia.

MAY



WATER, LIFE SOURCE

- The arrival of 100 lung ventilators donated to the Federal District by the TikTok company and the Jack Ma/Alibaba Foundations;
- Agenda with Bogotá to learn about the initiatives developed in the areas of security, social assistance, and gender;
- Launch of the Profile and Export and Investment Opportunities of the Federal District 2021 carried out by Apex Brasil.

APRIL



THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE

- The DF participates in BIF 2021 to attract investments and present BioTIC;
- Campaign "Agasalho Solidário" receives a donation of a thousand basic baskets from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates;
- GDF presents, at the invitation of Bogotá, a joint project proposal for the IDB Call for the promotion of Regional Public Goods.

JUNE



WORLD REFUGEE DAY

- Meeting between secretariats to outline strategies related to refugee and migration issues and to debate the panorama of Brazil and the Federal District;
- Participation of students from the Bela Vista Class School, in São Sebastião, in the art contest "#YouthWithRefugees" promoted worldwide by UNHCR;
- GDF presents 3 thematic proposals to work in alliances with cities of member states of the European Union (EU) at the invitation of the IURC.

JULY



AGRICULTURE: TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

- Embassy of Israel performs mural art painting at the Galeria dos Estados;
- Social Action of the South African Embassy in honor of Mandela Day;
- GDF holds the international online event "Best practices to promote the economic autonomy of women in Latin America."

AUGUST

SMART CITIES

- BIM's anniversary!
- Program trains GDF servers in socio-education;
- Commission analyzes the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

SEPTEMBER



CARE FOR CHILDHOOD: A GLOBAL DUTY

- First edition of the project "Viver Brasília: an international perspective";
- GDF pays tribute to the Fire Department returned from Haiti in support of a humanitarian mission;
- Presentation of the International Panel in the 2nd edition of GovTech.

NOVEMBER



2022

NEW ERA OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

- Resume of the "Circuit of the Embassies" Program;
- Inauguration of Praça América Central, initiative of the "Adote Uma Praça" program;
- Launch of Europe Readr at Metrô-DF stations.

OCTOBER

LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE WEATHER

- Participation in the XIX General Assembly of the UCCI and confirmation of Brasília as Ibero-American Capital of Cultures 2022 and Vice President of Culture of the network;
- Israeli Conference on Innovations in Agriculture and Water at BioTIC;
- Presentation on International Technical Cooperation in a workshop of the Ministry of Health with the Pan American Health Organization (OPAS/WHO).

DECEMBER

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