

Brazil general debate excerpt

Speech by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva at the opening of the 78th UN General Assembly Speech read by the President of the Republic, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, at the opening of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, at the UN headquarters in New York (USA), on September 19, 2023 My greetings to the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago. It is a pleasure to be preceded by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres. I greet each of the Heads of State and Government and delegates present. I pay homage to our compatriot Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 other employees of this Organization, victims of the brutal attack in Baghdad, 20 years ago. I also wish to express my condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the storms that hit Libya. Like what happened recently in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in my country. These tragedies have claimed lives and caused irreparable losses. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims and their families. Ladies and Gentlemen Exactly twenty years ago I stood on this rostrum for the first time. And said, on that September 23, 2003: "May my first words before this World Parliament be of confidence in the human capacity to overcome challenges and evolve towards superior forms of coexistence" I return today to say that I maintain my unshakable trust in humanity. At that time, the world had not yet realized the severity of the climate crisis. Today, it knocks on our doors, destroys our homes, our cities, our countries, kills and imposes losses and suffering on our brothers, especially the poorest. Hunger, the central theme of my speech at this World Parliament 20 years ago, today affects 735 million human beings, who go to sleep tonight without knowing if t