



EMERGENCY PLATFORM TO CONFRONT THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE BRAZILIAN CRISIS

PLATAFORMA EMERGENCIAL PARA O ENFRENTAMENTO DA PANDEMIA DO CORONAVÍRUS E DA CRISE BRASILEIRA



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PROTECT LIFE, HEALTH, INCOME AND JOBS

The Brasil Popular Front and Povo Sem Medo (People Without Fear) along with the social, people's and student movements, central unions, political parties, traditional religions and entities of civil society, signatories to this document, concerned with the life of the Brazilian people, present and defend an emergency platform, in order to save our people from the tragedy of the new coronavirus pandemic, the economic crisis, the lack of income and the irresponsible policy of the government of President Jair Bolsonaro, which can kill thousands of Brazilians.

The moment we are going through is unprecedented in recent history. Humanity has come to know the enemy and its own weaknesses during the battle. We don't have, nor does anyone else have, the magic recipe for overcoming this situation. All exits involve the submission of private interests to those of the whole of society, collective action, unity and popular solidarity.

In this context, the Federal Government, by failing to take effective measures against the crisis, became the main threat to the safety and well-being of the Brazilian population. In contrast to leading the nation in fighting the pandemic, the President of the Republic acts openly to sabotage measures to protect the Brazilian people, contrary to the measures recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Simple measures such as quarantine, the universalization of Covid-19 tests, and the guarantee of basic income for workers that have been applied in most countries on all continents.

That is why, in addition to proposing alternatives, we add to the voices of millions of Brazilians who have daily expressed their rejection of President Jair Bolsonaro and demanded the end of a government that plays on the lives and deaths of human beings.

Our economy is controlled by financial capital and transnational corporations that, even before the coronavirus, were already imposing the worst living conditions on our people. The virus arrives in Brazil at a time of economic stagnation, dismantling of public services, increasing poverty and social inequality. The labor market is highly precarious, with high unemployment and a large proportion of those employed in informal jobs, without social protection.

The crisis caused by a pandemic exposes the irrationality and folly of the neoliberal and neo-fascist projects that today are leading the nation. The annulment of social rights, the privatization of public services and companies, the assault on public resources by large companies and banks, the deregulation and precariousness of work and the denial of the State as guarantor of human and social rights are formulas that only keep us from solving the most urgent problems of the people.

For all of us who claim a democratic and popular project for Brazil, it is impossible, therefore, to dissociate social mobilization to face the pandemic from that by a qualitative and programmatic

change of government in the country. The persistence of a government and a ruler guided by private and business interests, which works against scientific evidence and limits state action to combat the crisis, makes it extremely difficult for the Brazilian people to overcome this situation.

Preventing the situation from worsening further requires effective and concrete proposals. With that in mind, we have put together a set of feasible measures that can help to lessen the dramatic consequences of the current economic and health crisis. In this document, we present proposals to unite social forces to dialogue with Brazilian society about the collective responsibility of reversing a scenario whose prognosis is not very optimistic. We hope the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary will accept such proposals, grouped in the following axes:

- 1. Basic conditions in order to save our people**
- 2. Promotion and strengthening of public health**
- 3. Guaranty of employment and income for workers**
- 4. Social protection, right to food and housing for everyone**
- 5. Right to food for everyone**
- 6. Right to decent housing**
- 7. Reorientation of the economy and allocation of public resources**

We have a long and decisive battle ahead of us, which will only be won if we manage to bring unity of action to our people and reorganize life in society. Our lives can no longer be controlled by the greed of capital.

EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. BASIC CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO SAVE OUR PEOPLE

It is necessary to adopt the method of horizontal social isolation, called quarantine. All people should remain at home circulating only for what is strictly necessary (purchase of food, medicines and search for essential services), except those who work in activities related to essential services.

The objective of this method is not only to prevent more people from contracting the disease, but mainly to slow the speed of its spread, preventing the collapse of the health system, so that everyone who needs it can be treated with dignity and that more lives are saved.

For this to be possible and effective, it is necessary to:

- a) Suspend face-to-face classes and school activities at all levels and throughout the national territory, with protection for the health of the children of workers of essential services;
- b) Halt all industrial and service activities, with the exception of those related to essential services, monitoring compliance with this determination;
- c) Partially suspend public mass transport, ensuring safe conditions for the transport of workers of essential services;
- d) Guarantee the income and relax financial obligations of families, aiming at maintaining the population's living conditions while the health crisis lasts;
- e) Ensure the safety, equipment and conditions of health workers so that they can treat people, save lives by reducing the risks of their contamination, that of their colleagues and family members;
- f) Guarantee the safety of other essential service workers, enabling their access to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), adequate training to use it, as well as having their health monitored and places in public spaces for washing hands, reducing the risks of their contamination and that of their colleagues and family members;
- g) Ensure the transparency of information on the evolution of the pandemic, on government actions and on preventive measures through massive, ongoing communication campaigns through all the media.



2. PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH

- a) Increase public health spending: strengthen the United Health System (SUS -- Sistema Único de Saúde) at all levels, guaranteeing the necessary budget for its full functioning and for combating, welcoming and treating people infected with the new coronavirus. In 2016, the health budget represented 4.36% of public spending. In 2020, this percentage dropped to 2.97%;
- b) Guarantee the test for coronavirus for anyone who presents symptoms, including through collection teams for home testing;
- c) Increase investments in the health complex: equipment industry, drug production, training and hiring of health professionals, immediate expansion of health infrastructure (primary care units and hospital centers);
- d) Strengthen the structure and mechanisms of social control of the health system, reinforcing the mobilizing, supervising and disseminating role of health information of the parties involved - managers, workers, research institutions and users;
- e) State control over the entire health, hospital and drug system with adaptation of equipment for care, construction of field hospitals and investment in public research for the production of preventive drugs and technologies for cleaning public spaces;

EMERGENCY MEASURES

- f) Expansion of ICU beds with a summoning of all the necessary personnel among students and community agents with a guarantee of bonuses, remuneration and corresponding overtime;
- g) Ensure the visit of the Family Health Program teams to the homes of elderly and high-risk people, monitoring their health and providing the necessary orientation for isolation during the pandemic;
- h) Conversion of industries for urgent manufacture of all the equipment and supplies necessary for the combat, care and treatment for victims of coronavirus, such as: oxygen, masks, hygiene and disinfection materials, drugs, ambulances, hospital beds, artificial respirators and intensive care equipment, with resources from the Brazilian Development Bank;
- i) Releasing people in prison who are at risk, such as the elderly over 60, pregnant women and those who have previous health problems;
- j) Maintain and increase surveillance at ports and airports to protect the population from the entry of viruses from abroad;
- k) Establish international cooperation with other countries and international organizations for the adoption in Brazil of the most successful practices in the fight and control of the coronavirus; and
- l) Prohibit the refusal of service, due to default, to those insured by private health plans while the pandemic lasts.

3. GUARANTY OF EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME FOR WORKERS

- a) Guarantee stability in employment and income for all workers during the crisis, through the various existing public policy instruments and, if necessary, with the creation of new instruments;
- b) Guarantee emergency income of a minimum monthly salary until the end of the pandemic for workers and informal workers in the countryside and the city, all those who have lost income, totally or partially, for the unemployed not covered by unemployment insurance and for all who need to leave work to care for children in school recess or for sick dependents. To be done through the various instruments of existing assistance and security policies and, if necessary, with the creation of new mechanisms;
- c) Postpone the payment of social contributions for workers and micro-entrepreneurs during the reduction or cessation of the economic activities of these workers;
- d) Immediately increase unemployment insurance for the necessary period, depending on how the health and economic crisis develops;
- e) Repeal MP 927/2020 which gives employers the power to suspend employment contracts without negotiation and remuneration and authorizes a set of measures detrimental to workers with regard to working hours, inspection and safety at work;
- f) Ensure that collective bargaining continues (maintenance of the agreement/convention until another is agreed upon) for a period of 180 days or until the crisis caused by the new coronavirus is overcome; and
- g) Propose to companies, employers and public institutions along with the unions the formation of committees to monitor the crisis, ensure transparency of the actions implemented and promote initiatives aimed at reducing the spread of the disease in the workplace.

EMERGENCY MEASURES

4. SOCIAL PROTECTION

- a) Reset the Bolsa Família queue and immediately raise the benefits of all families registered in the Program to a minimum monthly wage;
- b) Suspend all administrative procedures aimed at removing beneficiaries from social and social security programs;
- c) Put together a task force to ensure distance care for all those who are in the INSS queue;
- d) Pay daycare assistance in the amount of 1 minimum wage for hiring a home caregiver for health professionals with children under 12 years of age;
- e) Expand maternity leave for workers who would return to their activities during the quarantine;
- f) Release and expand resources for student assistance in technological institutions and institutions of higher education, ensuring the maintenance of assistance with living expenses, scholarships and scientific initiation, including with additional assistance for food in cases where university restaurants cannot maintain their service;
- (g) Suspend the return of workers who are on sick leave for the period in which measures to reduce the movement of persons and/or general confinement of the population last;
- h) Ensure that all formal and informal workers are exempt from paying electric, water and gas bills for four months. Provide one canister (13 kg) of cooking gas per month for all families in need. Prohibit cutting off, collecting fines, and raising the price of any of these services for the duration of the pandemic. Freeze the price of gas in 13 kg canisters at R\$ 40.00;
- i) Suspend the collection of rents for up to one month after the end of the crisis, including renters who have a single rented property benefited by the emergency basic income program. Suspend the payment of installments of contracts for My House My Life and other popular housing programs;
- j) Suspend or reduce tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses of private universities and give amnesty for the duration of quarantine measures to students who are self-employed and unable to carry out their activities. No enrollment should be prevented because of late fees next semester;
- k) Ensure access to soap, alcohol, and hygiene material for the poorest and most at-risk -

families in the outskirts of cities. Prioritize the public cleanup of all the outskirts of cities to control the spread of the virus;

- l) Adopt emergency measures to solve the water supply crisis: repairs in water distribution and use of water trucks. Without water, it is not possible to perform basic hygiene measures, such as washing hands -- and many places in Brazil simply do not have access to water;
- m) Redouble efforts to prevent and punish domestic and family violence during the quarantine period, offering effective channels for filing complaints and urgent care for women, domestic workers, children and the LGBTQI population;
- n) Implement an emergency plan for social protection and health assurance to indigenous families, quilombolas, riverside communities and fisher folk, migrants and immigrants, landless and people in encampments, ensuring the execution of health actions based on the National Policy of Integral Health of Rural Peoples, Forests and Waters;
- o) Suspend any act or action that may disturb the life and permanence of peoples and communities in their territories. Close access to indigenous and quilombola territories, except for public health and social assistance agents;
- p) Respect the isolated and recently-contacted indigenous peoples as a way to protect the health of these peoples;
- q) Create a policy of protection and effective integration of migrants and refugees in the city or in the countryside, obeying the new Migrant Law (no. 13.445/2017) and the international treaties to which Brazil is a signatory;
- r) Provide public hygiene spaces (bathrooms, showers and public laundries) and distribution of hygiene kits for the homeless population; and
- s) Establish international cooperation to implement in Brazil actions already adopted effectively in other countries for the social protection of their populations.

EMERGENCY MEASURES

5. RIGHT TO FOOD FOR EVERYONE

- a) Organize the production and distribution of healthy food in a massive way from family farms to the cities, through the Food Acquisition Program (Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos, PAA). Strengthen the National Supply Company – (Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento, CONAB) to operate with family farmers and ensure the food supply of hospitals, communities and public institutions that need it;
- b) Enable access to school meals or provide financial resources so that families can ensure that children have food to eat;
- c) Distribute hot food in individual packages to the homeless population. Intensify and strengthen the monitoring of social assistance to the homeless population;
- d) Distribute seeds, seedlings and equipment to family farmers/peasants in order to increase food production;
- e) Expropriate in the public interest the rural properties near large cities to solve the situation of the families in encampments, ensuring housing and public policies for the production of food quickly for the people of the city; and
- f) Distribute basic food baskets to communities and populations that are below the poverty line who will have difficulty accessing only with the resources of the Bolsa Família Program.



6. RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING



- a) Organize a special plan to serve the most fragile populations, who live in the streets, slums and tenements, to enable decent housing conditions, with possible removal, use of public property and expropriation of private properties;
- b) Prohibit any action to evict families in urban and rural areas; and
- c) Transform hotels, public facilities and unused buildings in cities into temporary housing for populations living below the poverty line and at risk.

EMERGENCY MEASURES

7. REORIENTATION OF THE ECONOMY AND ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

- a) Adapt economic policy for the priority of the war against the coronavirus, increasing public investments made by the State and the coordination of economic activities to ensure the people's health, employment and income;
- b) Repeal constitutional amendment 95, which limits social spending, and reorganize the national budget as a priority and emergency to meet the demands posed by this emergency situation;
- c) Strengthen the role of public banks by providing interest-free credit, with a short fall and extended payment deadlines, benefiting self-employed, individual and small and medium-sized micro-entrepreneurs and family farming enterprises;
- (d) Establish public control over the prices of essential items such as energy (electricity, gas and fuels), essential foods (rice, beans, meat, etc.) and personal care products;
- e) Suspend the payment of the debts of states and municipalities to the Union, to public banks and to international organizations and authorize new loans for emergency public investments;
- f) Ensure the transfer of funds for the participation of states and municipalities, plus extra installments, in addition to the expansion of health and social policy spending, with the suspension of the effects of the Fiscal Responsibility Law;
- g) Suspend indefinitely the collection by banks and the government of all debts of small and medium-sized enterprises, agricultural establishments, students of private colleges, Fund for Student Financing (Fundo de Financiamento Estudantil, FIES) and people;
- (h) Encourage and support industries, agricultural production and services focused on the needs posed by the emergency situation;
- i) Control the exploitation of natural resources (oil, minerals, water, biodiversity), suspending privatization processes and concessions and instituting action plans for the collaboration of companies in these sectors in coping with the social, economic and health crisis (extraordinary taxation, offering of products and services that are free or low price, stoppage of non-essential activities, etc.); and
- j) Repeal recent cuts in scholarships and resources to research projects of educational and research institutions and immediately expand resources for research and development of methods, test kits, equipment and devices necessary to cope with the pandemic, both for research institutions and for industry.

CONCLUSION

We understand that it is essential to suspend all votes of the National Congress that exclude the rights of the working class, as well as the repeal of Provisional Measure 905 (creation of the Green and Yellow Portfolio) and the withdrawal of emergency proposals to amend the constitution sent by the government before the pandemic that limit the ability of the public sector to act.

We call on the leaders of the trade unions and popular movements, the leaders of the different faith traditions, the leaders of political parties committed to democracy, feminist movements, the Black movement, the movements of sexual and collective diversity of youth, culture and communication, in short, for all forms of social organization of our people to disseminate and promote the discussion of these proposals.

We also emphasize that everyone should take action to build a large popular solidarity network to support meeting the most urgent needs of our poorest people by organizing the dissemination of health information, the collection and distribution of financial resources, food, medicines, hygiene supplies, clothing, etc.

We applaud the workers in the areas of health, social assistance, mental health, public security, essential services and those dedicated to producing and distributing food. It is these people who take on their work for the common good and face the pandemic of the new coronavirus to ensure the necessary functioning of society.

The emergency proposals presented here aim to defeat the coronavirus in Brazil, protect human life, the national economy and the living conditions of our people from a democratic and popular point of view. The federal government, subject to several of our proposals, has acted as an ally of the epidemic, in particular the President of the Republic. In this way, Jair Bolsonaro became one of the main obstacles to be defeated by the Brazilian people in the difficult mission of overcoming this crisis.

After we overcome this epidemic, which we will surely achieve through collective and supportive effort, much will have to be done to recover our nation. We believe that only democratic and committed governments, first of all, with the interests of the people can carry forward a true popular project for Brazil.

Brazil, March 31, 2020

SIGNATURES

Frente Brasil Popular

Frente Povo Sem Medo

ABRA - Associação Brasileira para a Reforma Agraria

ABJD - Associação Brasileira de juristas pela democracia

ADERE- Articulação de Assalariados Rurais

AFRONTE

AJD- Associação de Juízes pela Democracia

ANPG – Associação Nacional dos Pós-graduandos

Aliança Batista do Brasil

APIB- Articulação dos Povos indígenas do Brasil.

ASA - Articulação do Semi-árido

CAIS - Centro de Assessoria e Apoio a Iniciativas Sociais

CEBRAPAZ

CENARAB

Centro de Estudos da Mídia Alternativa Barão de Itararé

Centro Internacional Celso Furtado de Políticas para o Desenvolvimento

CESE - Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço

CGTB

CIMI- Conselho Indigenista Missionario

CMP- Central de Movimentos Populares

CNLB- Conselho Nacional do Laicato do Brasil

Coletivo Transforma Ministério Publico

CONAQ – Confederação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Quilombolas

CONEN - Coordenação Nacional de Entidades Negras

CONIC- Conselho Nacional de Igrejas Cristãs

CONTAG

Contraf

Consulta Popular

CSB

CSP Conlutas

CPT - Comissão Pastoral da Terra

CPP - Conselho de Pastoral dos Pescadores

CTB

CUT – Central Única dos Trabalhadores

DESHC- Plataforma de direitos humanos

Evangélicas pela igualdade de Gênero

FASSUBRA

FENAE-Federação Nacional das Associações do Pessoal da Caixa

FISENGE- Federação nacional dos sindicatos de engenheiros.

Força Sindical

Fórum Ecumênico- ACT-Brasil

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

INESC

Instituto Silvia Lane - Psicologia e Compromisso Social
Intersindical
Levante Popular da Juventude
MAB – Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens
MAM - Movimento pela Soberania Popular na Mineração
MCP – Movimento Camponês Popular
MMC – Movimento das Mulheres Camponesas
MMM – Marcha Mundial de Mulheres
MNLM - Movimento Nacional de Luta por Moradia
MPA – Movimentos dos Pequenos Agricultores
MTC - Movimento dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Campo
MTD – Movimentos das/dos Trabalhadoras/es por Direitos
MST – Movimentos dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem-Terra
MTST – Movimentos dos Trabalhadores Sem-Teto
Nova Central
PC do B
PJR - Pastoral da Juventude Rural
Plataforma dos Movimentos Sociais para a reforma política
PSOL
PT
Rede Nacional de Medicos/as Populares
Resistência Feminista
SENGE - Sindicato Estadual dos Engenheiros-Rio
SPM - Serviço Pastoral dos Migrantes
Terra de Direitos
UBES – União Brasileira de Estudantes Secundaristas
UBM - União Brasileira de Mulheres
UGT
UJS – União da Juventude Socialista
UNE – União Nacional de Estudantes
UNEGRO - União de Negros Pela Igualdade
UNALGBT - União Nacional de Lésbicas, Gays, Bissexuais, Travestis e Transexuais
União Nacional por Moradia Popular
Unidade Popular
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