

**INTERVENÇÃO GRAVADA DO MINISTRO BENTO ALBUQUERQUE NA CERIMÔNIA DE
ABERTURA DO SEGMENTO VIRTUAL BIOFUTURE SUMMIT II (BBEST2020)**

30/11/2020

4'50''

DEAR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ERNESTO ARAÚJO,

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IEA, DR. FATIH BIROL,

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE BIOECONOMY COMMUNITY,

I AM VERY PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING OF THIS SECOND EDITION OF THE JOINT BIOFUTURE SUMMIT AND BBEST CONFERENCE. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE FACE-TO-FACE SEGMENT NEXT MAY IN SÃO PAULO.

THE CURRENT FORUM WILL BE A GREAT OCCASION TO DEBATE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR COMMON GOAL: HOW TO USE THE PROPER POLICY INSTRUMENTS TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN INVESTMENTS AND ACCELERATE THE SUSTAINABLE LOW CARBON BIOECONOMY.

THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN A CHALLENGING MOMENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, GLOBAL BIOFUELS PRODUCTION DROPPED, DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND RESPONSE MEASURES. A FALL IN CRUDE OIL PRICES AT THE START OF THE PANDEMIC MADE BIOFUELS LESS COMPETITIVE THAN TRADITIONAL FOSSIL FUELS.

IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THIS DROP IN THE OVERALL TRANSPORT FUEL DEMAND BROUGHT LOWER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN 2020, WITH AN IMMEDIATE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN MANY CITIES. HOWEVER, THESE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS WILL BE QUICKLY NEUTRALIZED IF WE DON'T FOSTER BIOENERGY RECOVERY, ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS FOR TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRY DECARBONIZATION.

IN BRAZIL, WE HAVE LEARNED OVER THE DECADES THAT ETHANOL HAS A CLEAR POSITIVE EFFECT NOT ONLY ON NET CARBON EMISSIONS BUT ALSO ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY, BY SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCING PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM FLEX-FUEL VEHICLES, BY MEANS OF A MANDATORY MID-LEVEL BLEND WITH GASOLINE.

WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND SMART BIOENERGY STRATEGY, INCLUDING ETHANOL, BIODIESEL, BIOGAS,

BIOELECTRICITY AND ADVANCED BIOFUELS, IS BOTH FEASIBLE AND HIGHLY BENEFICIAL. THIS VIRTUOUS CYCLE CREATES HIGH-QUALITY JOBS, REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, BRINGS DEVELOPMENT TO RURAL AREAS, AND PROVIDES POPULATION WITH MORE ENERGY OPTIONS WHILE ENHANCING ENERGY SECURITY.

SUCH A CONTINUED SUPPORT MUST BE BASED ON SOUND AND PREDICTABLE PUBLIC POLICIES. AS YOU KNOW, BRAZIL HAS A LONG HISTORY OF INVESTMENTS AND PRODUCTION OF BIOFUELS. LAST APRIL, RENOVABIO CAME INTO FULL IMPLEMENTATION. THIS PROGRAM PROMOTES INVESTMENT, INNOVATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY BY TYING INCENTIVES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE, MEASURED WITH A TRANSPARENT SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY FOR CARBON LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS. CBIO CREDITS, A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT LINKED TO EMISSION REDUCTIONS BASED ON LOW CARBON FUELS, ARE ALREADY TRADING IN SÃO PAULO'S STOCK EXCHANGE.

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED BIOENERGY PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED, AND OVER 15 MILLION CBIO CREDITS, EQUIVALENT TO 15 MILLION TONS OF AVOIDED CO₂ EMISSIONS, HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED THIS YEAR.

THIS IS YET ANOTHER STEP IN OUR ROAD TO ENSURE A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS OF RENOVABIO, AND WE ARE KEEN TO SHARE AND DEBATE THIS EXPERIENCE WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES.

DEAR FRIENDS,

SINCE 2016, THE 20 COUNTRIES OF THE BIOFUTURE PLATFORM – TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY – HAVE HELPED SECURE A PLACE FOR BIOENERGY IN THE GLOBAL DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION.

LAST SEPTEMBER, I HAD THE PLEASURE TO CO-CHAIR, ALONGSIDE MY DEAR FRIEND DR. FATIH BIROL, THE LAUNCH OF THE BIOFUTURE PLATFORM INITIATIVE IN THE CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL. WE HOPE THAT INITIATIVES LIKE THIS WILL HELP BRING THE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION THAT BIOENERGY AND THE BIOECONOMY DESERVE AS CRITICAL PATHS TO A LOW CARBON FUTURE.

WE ALSO HOPE THAT THIS ATTENTION WILL BE CONVERTED INTO CONCRETE POLICY ACTION, LIKE BLENDING MANDATES, LOW-CARBON EMISSIONS CREDITS, FISCAL MEASURES, SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS, TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT, AND FRIENDLIER ENVIRONMENTS FOR INVESTMENTS AND JOB CREATION.

I AM SURE THE DEBATES OF THE BIOFUTURE SUMMIT AND THE POLICY FORUM WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A ROADMAP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM