

## Remarks During the United States-Brazil CEO Forum in Brasilia March 19, 2011

I just want to begin by thanking President Rousseff for her extraordinary hospitality. To the Brazilian companies who are here, many of whom have investments in the United States, we're grateful for the dialogue with our colleagues from the north.

As I stated in the statement that I just made before coming here, Brazil is on the rise. And the United States is excited and fully supportive of Brazil's rapid expansion, its extraordinary talent, its resources, its enormous potential that's now being realized, in part because of the outstanding leadership of President Rousseff.

And I think the goal today—so I'm not going to speak long—is simply to make sure that we were helping to facilitate an effective dialogue. I know that there are a couple of areas where we're going to be announcing agreements: an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, an open skies agreement. I know those are two issues that everybody was advocating and we're going to announce them today, so we're pleased to do that. I know there's been some work done on extending visas for both

countries, and although we haven't gotten all that worked through, we are making progress, and we will continue to do so.

Brazil is going to be hosting several important sporting events over the next few years. I mentioned that it pains me to say this when it comes to the Olympics because—[laughter]—Lula beat me on that one. [Laughter] But we want to make sure that through this forum, companies that have both an expertise on security and infrastructure, that they will potentially participate.

On energy, obviously, Brazil is a major player on the world stage—

*[At this point, the press pool was escorted out of the room. The forum continued, but no transcript was provided.]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:33 p.m. at the Palacio do Itamaraty. In his remarks, he referred to President Dilma Rousseff and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

## Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Brasilia March 19, 2011

President Rousseff, to all the distinguished guests, elected officials, business leaders who are here, I want to thank you so much, not only for your very kind words, but for the extraordinary hospitality that you and the Brazilian people have shown me, Michelle, and our daughters. You've shown us the essence of the Brazilian spirit, which is truly *simpatico*.

We gather here at one of the city's most magnificent structures, which speaks to the creativity and the ingenuity and vision of Brazil and its people. It calls to mind the words of President Kubitschek, who said, "What is Brasilia if not the dawn of a new day for Brazil?" In our lives we've seen that new day come to pass. Because of the sacrifices and courage

of Brazilians like Madam President, you have built a vibrant democracy. Because of the hard work and determination of the Brazilian people—parents, students, entrepreneurs—you've built a thriving economy. Future historians will surely record Brazil's rise as one of the great achievements of our time.

As I said earlier today, the United States doesn't simply welcome Brazil's rise; we want to help in any ways that we can to realize Brazil's full potential. When you look at what our two countries share, as President Rousseff mentioned—our belief in the dignity of every individual, our confidence that if we put our minds to it there's nothing we can't do, the incredible diversity of our peoples, our sense of

responsibility to not only people within our borders, but people beyond our borders—well, it's only natural that we would end up being close partners. We can go further together.

Madam President, today we have seized an historic opportunity. We've laid a foundation for greater cooperation and partnership between our nations for decades to come. And I firmly believe that this will mean more dignity, more prosperity, and more security, not only for the peoples of our two nations, but for peo-

ple across Latin America and around the world.

So I propose a toast. Recalling those words from President Kubitschek: To the new day in Brazil, may the sunlight of progress and peace always shine upon you. *Salude*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. at the Palácio do Itamaraty. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Rousseff.

## Remarks to the Brazil-United States Business Council Summit in Brasília March 19, 2011

*Boa tarde*. Thank you very much. Please, please, everybody be seated. It is a great joy to be here in Brazil. And on behalf of Michelle and myself, I want to thank the people of Brasília for the incredibly warm welcome that you've shown us since we arrived.

I want to make a few acknowledgements. First of all, I want to thank the Brazil-U.S. Business Council for the outstanding work that they're doing: the National Conference of Industry and the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil. Thank you all for the great job in hosting this conference.

I want to acknowledge a number of my Cabinet who are here: the Secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner, is here; Gary Locke, the Secretary of Commerce; Ron Kirk, our U.S. Trade Representative; Lisa Jackson, our EPA Administrator; Fred Hochberg, President of the Export-Import Bank; Michael Froman, my Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs. And to all the Government officials of Brazil, thank you for your hospitality.

My only regret is that we missed the party by coming a few weeks after Carnival. [*Laughter*] Maybe that's the best, since I'm not sure I would have had the same level of productivity from my staff. [*Laughter*]

I also want to thank all the business and Government officials who have traveled from the U.S. and all over Brazil to be here today. After spending the morning discussing a range of economic issues with President Rousseff

and talking with some Brazilian and American CEOs, I want to speak with you today about how we can work together to create new jobs and new opportunities in both our countries.

In the last two centuries, there has never been a moment of greater promise for Brazil. You now have the seventh largest economy in the world and one of the fastest growing of any country. In the span of nearly a decade, tens of millions of Brazilians have been lifted out of poverty. Nearly half of your population is now considered middle class. Instead of relying on the helping hand of other countries, you are now extending a hand to help developing nations. You grow much of the world's food, supply much of its biofuels, and will host the two largest international sporting events in the world. And as I mentioned at the joint press conference with Madam President Rousseff, I'm still a little hurt about the Olympics coming here instead of my hometown in Chicago. [*Laughter*] But I know you'll do an outstanding job.

So what has been accomplished here in Brazil is nothing short of remarkable. It's often said that Brazil is a country for the future. Well, that future has now arrived. And despite the uncertainties of the last 2 years, Brazil has stepped onto the world stage as a major financial and economic power.

You did not arrive at this point by simply chance or good fortune. Your success came because of hard work and the perseverance of the Brazilian people, the entrepreneurial spirit of