

Open Letter to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

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Dear President Lula,

When people think about Brazil, they rarely think first about politics.

They think about football.

They think about Carnival.

They think about the Amazon rainforest.

They think about a country that seems larger than life itself.

Brazil is one of those rare nations that feels more like a continent than a country.

It possesses enormous natural wealth, a vibrant culture, vast agricultural resources, and one of the largest populations on Earth.

For decades, observers around the world have looked at Brazil and asked the same question:

Why has a country with so much potential struggled to fully realize it?

You have spent much of your political life trying to answer that question.

And few politicians in modern history have experienced a journey quite like yours.

You rose from poverty to become President.

You left office with high popularity.

You faced criminal convictions that were later annulled.

You returned to power when many believed your political career had ended.

Regardless of political opinion, it is an extraordinary story.

Your supporters point to important achievements.

Brazil's economy has remained more stable than many feared.

Poverty reduction programs have continued to support vulnerable citizens.

Unemployment has fallen from the levels seen during previous difficult periods.

Brazil has regained a more visible role on the international stage.

Your government has also placed renewed emphasis on protecting the Amazon rainforest.

For many people around the world, this matters greatly.

The Amazon is not only a Brazilian treasure.

It is one of the most important ecological regions on Earth.

At the same time, serious concerns remain.

Brazil continues to struggle with crime, corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and deep social inequality.

Many citizens feel that improvements arrive too slowly.

Others argue that Brazil's political class, regardless of ideology, often spends too much energy fighting each other and too little solving long-term structural problems.

Economic growth remains below what many Brazilians hope for.

Public services vary dramatically depending on region.

Millions of people still live far from the level of security and opportunity that a country of Brazil's wealth should be able to provide.

There is also a growing concern that Brazil continues to discuss its future using the language of old political battles.

The world is changing rapidly.

Artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, energy transformation, and technological competition will shape the next generation.

Brazil possesses the talent and resources to become a global leader in many of these fields.

The question is whether it will move quickly enough.

What I would like to see from your leadership is a Brazil that believes more in its future than in its past.

A Brazil that exports not only commodities, but innovation.

A Brazil that becomes known not only for football and Carnival, but also for science, technology, education, and entrepreneurship.

The greatest challenge facing your presidency may not be reducing poverty.

It may be helping Brazil finally achieve the level of prosperity that its enormous potential has promised for generations.

My overall assessment:

4 out of 5.

You have brought experience, political skill, social concern, and international visibility to the presidency. Significant challenges remain, particularly regarding corruption, public security, economic competitiveness, and long-term growth, but your government has generally moved Brazil in a constructive direction.

Respectfully,

A Citizen of the World

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