Policy brief from “Recommendations on Brazil to President Biden and the New Administration” published by the U.S. Network for Democracy in Brazil (USNDB)

ABIA through its programs, GAPW and SPW, shares with our audiences the document presented by the U.S. Network for Democracy in Brazil (USNDB) to the recently elected Biden-Harris government.

The document provides a short but sharp background analysis of Brazil’s current political, economic, social and environmental conditions, requesting the new U.S. administration take decisive action to revoke the special *entente* that had been established between Bolsonaro administration and the previous U.S government that has contributed to de-legitimize democracy, in addition to other detrimental effects. It offers ten highlights of the most nefarious impacts of the Bolsonaro's government, which needs to be cautiously taken into consideration in the redefinition of U.S. external policy in relation to Brazil.

Given ABIA’s mission and programs we particularly welcome the analyses and recommendations made by the document in relation to:

**Democracy and the Rule of Law:**
The weakening of the institutional apparatus caused a spread of violence and corruption. In light of US controversial history with Latin America, the Biden-Harris administration backing up the rule of law would confirm a decisive turn in the U.S foreign policies towards the region.

**Human Rights and historically marginalized groups:**
Sexual and ethnic minorities as well as gender rights, sexual and reproductive rights and freedom of speech and expression from civil society actors are threatened during Bolsonaro administration. On a diplomatic lever the U.S must condemn this violation of human rights and human lives.

**Religious Freedom:**
Reversing the Trump administration era, the Biden administration must break any ties with ultraconservative religious sectors that have transnationally risen in power across the continent. This posture will help delegitimize anti-democratic practices that these forces are pursuing in Brazil.

**Public Health:**
World-acclaimed Brazilian health system is collapsing because of budget reduction and privatization. The pandemic highlights must be seen as an opportunity for both the U.S. and Brazil to open dialogue on the importance of a free and universal public health system.

**Covid-19, Poverty and Welfare:**
Poverty and inequality need to be tackled with a long-term regardless of the economic situation caused by the pandemic. Furthermore, the mismanagement of the latter has done nothing but worsen the situation and made the need of a social welfare program even more urgent.

We also welcome and appraise the analyses and recommendations offered by the document to other critical areas also negatively affected by policy measures adopted by the current Brazilian government, as follows:

**Indigenous Right, Climate Change and Deforestation:**
Business-driven Bolsonaro’s policies are a threat for the Amazon and its Indigenous communities. Besides funding conservation, the U.S have the leverage power needed to reverse the trend as one of the major importers of timber from the Amazon.

**State Violence and Police Brutality:**
Violence exercised by the state and its enforcement bodies is now a constant in resolving dividends and has taken on brutal modes. The high rate of homicides that this formal violence produces should alarm human rights experts worldwide.

**Political Economy:**
Bolsonaro administration has adopted neoliberalism as one of its warhorses. By adopting public spending as a way to face the current crisis, the U.S would show how austerity and privatization are not desirable ways for the wellbeing of citizens.

**Labor:**
U.S power through labor diplomacy must help block the dismantling of unions and labor rights provoked by the Bolsonaro administration with the intent of playing more by the rules of the market.

**Alcantara Space Base and U.S. Military Aid:**
On the basis of a collaboration free from any military intervention, the U.S should revoke the Technology and Safeguard Agreement (TSA) signed with Brazil during the previous administration is a threat for the life of 800 Afro-Brazilian families living in the Quilombo land.