



Your Excellencies, Ambassadors Antonio Aguiar Patriota and Peter Wilson

Ambassadors Tania Cooper Patriota and Monica Wilson

Past Chairmen, Sir Peter Heap and Jaime Gornsztejn,

Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

Welcome to our Christmas party, a time in the year when we come together and look back into the year that is coming to an end and look forward to the one who is coming next.

And, *especially*, a time when we have the opportunity to wish each other the best for a successful New Year ahead and to say a big *thank-you* to all of you who have assisted us in the Chamber in our activities.

We exist, as you all know, to help to promote trade and investment between the UK and Brazil. This is why we organise seminars, discussions, webinars *and* our Gala Dinner, in which we give awards to companies and personalities that have contributed significantly to the relations between the two countries, and which this year, when we honoured BP and Patria Investments, was a sold-out evening at Draper's Hall.

We had, by all accounts, an extraordinary level of activities in 2024, with 35 events that we have organised or promoted together with our partners, and this is truly significant.

We have also had, during 2024, quite simply, an extraordinary involvement of the members of the Chamber.

And this is *not a small thing* – we all have other activities, and still, in your willingness to contribute, you have found the time to be actively part of the team and to help us to show, to London and beyond, the opportunities that exist for UK and Brazilian businesses in different areas, ranging from Biofuels to Trade and Commodities Finance; from Infrastructure to Tax Incentives on Infrastructure; from Insurance to Critical Minerals, amongst others.

Many times, you helped us offering us your own beautiful premises here in the City of London and, other times, (and I believe, for the first time in the Chamber's history), sponsoring events in the National History Museum and Tate Modern. A **game changer** for the Chamber.



And, Your Excellency and Ambassadors, you have invited us to your home, and the celebration of our Independence Day was an unforgettable occasion to all of us who were there, and certainly a very special occasion to me – thank you again for that.

None of our activities would have been possible without those who give their time for the Chamber and who share our ethos and, in this respect, I would like to thank:

1. Our engaged Advisory Council and committed Board of Directors who give their time and experience for this organisation;
2. Our Heads of Committees and their members, many of whom are here tonight;
3. Our management team formed by Lena Beraldo and Jacqueline Capar for running the Chamber with utmost dedication, and at many times at the limit of their capacity;
4. The Embassy, especially Ambassador Patriota, former Minister Counsellor Roberto Doring and Minister Rodrigo Govedise, to whom I wish much professional and personal happiness in his new post in South Africa. Thanks in advance to Minister Counsellor Felipe Bandeira de Mello for already supporting our partnership, and to all the team at the Embassy;
5. To all our sponsors, who have contributed to our activities, buying tables at the Gala Dinner, sponsoring events or otherwise assisting us – we really appreciate your being there for us.
6. And finally, our members – our reason of being, thank you for being there with us and for your support.

A final word of thanks goes to our premium member CI&T, an information technology and software development company which, having originated in Brazil, has expanded significantly and today operates globally – in the United States, Canada, Portugal, China, Colombia, Japan, Australia and here in the UK - thank you, Solange, for your sponsorship of this evening.

Now, in relation to 2025, the year ahead.

Next year will be special, as Brazil and the UK will be celebrating **200 years of diplomatic relations in 2025.**



BRAZILIAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN GREAT BRITAIN

In my opinion, **we have a very favourable moment for the relations between Brazil and the UK** – we have **many values *in common*** and this creates the right basis for an excellent cooperation, in different areas.

Brazil will be hosting COP 30 in Belém next year and we share common beliefs on the environmental front as well, as Brazil and the UK are united in their commitment to taking action in this critical decade to limit global warming.

We at the Chamber hope to be able to make this a central element to our activities next year.

With that said, and with no further ado, I wish you all a very good evening, which is made even more special by Victorinox, which has kindly offered some goods that we are going to draw. Many thanks Rafael Matsuoka for that.

Victorinox AG is a worldwide operating family business, headquartered in **Switzerland**. And they have a **flagship store in London, at 388 Oxford Street**, which, quite frankly, is a delight.

Many thanks to all again .

Feliz Natal, and a great year to you and your families.

Vera Innes

Chair