



## **58<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference**

**Statement by  
H. E. Ambassador Laercio Antonio Vinhas  
Permanent Representative of Brazil**

Vienna, 22-26 September 2014

Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Azeez, on your election as President of the 58<sup>th</sup> General Conference. You may rest assured of the full support of the Brazilian delegation in your efforts to lead this meeting to a successful conclusion.

I wish to commend Ambassador Mabhongo of South Africa for the competent manner in which he discharged his duties as President of the 57<sup>th</sup> session.

I would also like to add the satisfaction of Brazil with the admission of Comoros, Djibouti, Guyana and Vanuatu to the IAEA membership.

Mr President,

Brazil places great importance on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, from power generation, human health, industry, to agriculture and environmental protection. We are convinced that nuclear technology will continue to be of great relevance for the achievement of the MDGs and future sustainable development goals. Apart from being one of the IAEA's main statutory tenets, technical cooperation activities also constitute a key instrument for ensuring compliance with Article IV of the NPT.

As a country that is both recipient and donor, Brazil fully supports the constant strengthening and steady implementation of the Agency's TC program. Building upon an initiative by the Deputy Director-General for Technical Cooperation, my country has strengthened its cooperation in the nuclear field with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, in particular Angola and Mozambique, with focus on areas such as licensing, medical applications and the management of TC projects.

The ARCAL framework plays an indispensable role in strengthening technical cooperation among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The recently concluded Regional Strategic Profile (RSP) 2016-2021 will certainly enhance the formulation of future TC projects, in partnership with the IAEA. It will also constitute an excellent foundation for the development and updating of the Country Profile Frameworks (CPFs) of Member States in our region.

Mr President,

The construction of the third Brazilian nuclear power plant – Angra III – is well under way. The facility is expected to be connected to the national power grid in 2018. Recently, two major contracts related to the construction process have been signed, one of them for electro-mechanical assembling services, and the other for services and imported equipment necessary for the conclusion of the plant's construction.

In parallel, the construction of our national 30-megawatt Multipurpose Research Reactor (RMB) proceeds, with the basic engineering design being developed in cooperation with Argentina. The RMB will ensure self-sufficiency in the production of radioisotopes for human health, industry and agriculture in Brazil, and will be used for other applications such as materials testing and research.

Mr President,

Brazil has actively participated in the VI Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) last March/April. Brazil's report contained detailed information on the implementation of the National Response Plan to the Fukushima accident. The Plan, conducted by the nuclear power plant operator, Eletronuclear, covers three main areas: protection against risk events, cooling capacity of reactors and spent fuel pools and limitation of radiological consequences.

Brazil looks forward to the diplomatic conference in 2015 to consider the proposal by Switzerland to amend the CNS. The great challenge at the conference will be finding language that can, at the same time, take into account different national realities facing existing nuclear power plants, and invite States to consider safety improvements whenever these might be technically and economically feasible.

Also in the area of nuclear safety, I would like to highlight the activities implemented by the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO) and its increasing cooperation with the IAEA. Of particular relevance was the establishment of criteria for licensing and inspection of cyclotrons used to produce radioisotopes for medical applications and research.

Mr President,

Brazil fully supports IAEA efforts to promote more efficient and effective safeguards. In doing so, it is clear that we must ensure that State's obligations are met, and that the Agency, for its part, operates strictly within the established legal parameters, taking into account the different scopes and corresponding safeguards measures deriving from the distinct categories of agreements entered into by Member States.

Pursuant to the request of last year's General Conference, we welcome the Supplementary Document (SD) on the State-level concept (SLC). The SD enticed an unprecedented process of consultations and technical meetings between the Secretariat and Member States. In our view, a new phase in safeguards has been inaugurated, with greater accountability and transparency on the part of the Secretariat, and closer involvement of Member States in the development of proposed new policies. In addition to the refinement of the concept, a series of crucial assurances regarding the future application of the SLC were given to Member States, which were duly reflected in the Chair's Summary of the last Board meeting. For a relationship based on trust and confidence to be nurtured, the Secretariat must rigorously abide by the assurances given. Any future steps related to the concept, in view of the experience to be acquired in the coming years, must be taken in close

consultation and coordination with Member States, with the results being consolidated in a future document for the consideration of the Board of Governors.

Mr President,

Brazil acknowledges the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally, in an inclusive, transparent and genuinely multilateral manner. The Ministerial Declaration adopted at last year's Nuclear Security Conference provided high-level guidance on future endeavors in this field, which are to be reassessed at the 2016 IAEA nuclear security conference.

Brazil and the IAEA have diligently cooperated for the successful implementation of nuclear security measures in public events, most recently at the 2014 FIFA World Cup. This joint work will continue in view of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. We stand ready to share our experience with other interested countries.

It is Brazil's firm conviction that nuclear security must be in tandem with the international community's efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A sustainable global nuclear security strategy goes beyond adopting practical measures of physical protection in civilian facilities only. It requires also taking care of the vast stocks of HEU and separated plutonium for military applications in States possessing nuclear weapons. The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 2013 IAEA Conference stressed, in fact, the responsibility of States to maintain effective security of all nuclear material under their control, which includes nuclear material used for military purposes.

This comprehensive view underpins the position of Brazil and many other non-nuclear-weapon States in discussions related to nuclear security at the IAEA and other fora. In this regard, I would like to refer to the Joint Statement entitled "In larger security: a comprehensive approach to nuclear security", issued by Brazil and 14 other States at the Hague Nuclear Security Summit, last March. Encompassing both civilian and military nuclear material is indeed the only approach to address nuclear security in a proper and ultimately effective manner. And nuclear security is of little relevance if it is disconnected to global endeavours to promote peace and security through the reduction and ultimate elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Mr President,

As the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated, "there are no right hands for the wrong weapons". As we approach the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT, serious consideration must be given to nuclear disarmament steps, as an indispensable goal for upholding the treaty's continued authority, relevance and integrity. The synergy between UNGA resolutions, the NPT's three interrelated pillars and the IAEA's statutory functions, including that of "acting in conformity with UN policies furthering safeguarded worldwide disarmament", is becoming increasingly apparent. The IAEA has played essential verification activities in the past, either in country-specific situations or pursuant to requests from interested States parties to disarmament agreements. This role, which has been welcomed in successive IAEA General

Conference resolutions, must be supported and pursued, with a view to the Secretariat being able to stand ready to perform such tasks in the future.

Brazil is proud of being a party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and of the successful partnership with Argentina that led to the Quadripartite Agreement with the IAEA and ABACC. Those steps are significant references for other endeavors, in particular the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East. In this regard, Brazil hopes that the conference on the establishment of such a Zone should be convened at the earliest, before the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT.

Finally, Brazil welcomes the ongoing process of conferences related to highlighting the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any possible use of nuclear weapons. We look forward to participating actively at the third conference, to be sponsored by the Austrian government next December. In this connection, Brazil and other Latin American States would like to draw attention to the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as declared by the United Nations. A side event of this General Conference is being organised, as an opportunity for all of us, governments and civil society, to reiterate the urgent need to expedite all efforts towards our common goal of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thank you, Mr President.