



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

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

Vienna, 26-30 September 2016

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Othman, on your election as President of this 60<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 Formica, of Italy, for the competent manner in which he discharged his duties as President of the 59<sup>th</sup> session.

I would also like to commend Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Gambia for their admission to the IAEA.

Mr. President,

As a founding Member State, Brazil has actively supported the International Atomic Energy Agency since its inception. For the past sixty years, my country worked intensely to advance the Agency's core mission to "accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", as established in its Statute.

Brazil's commitment to the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes is a fundamental principle of our foreign policy, being enshrined in our Constitution and in several international legal agreements we have subscribed.

### **Nuclear applications and technical cooperation**

Mr. President,

Over the last 60 years, the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for human development have exponentially increased, ranging from health, medicine and the production of radioisotopes to the nuclear fuel cycle, power generation, industry, agriculture and environmental protection.

Technical cooperation activities are at the core of the Agency's statutory functions. My government stresses the importance of continuously strengthening the capacity of the Departments of Technical Cooperation and of Nuclear Sciences and Applications to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life worldwide.

Furthermore, Brazil recognizes the role that nuclear technology can play with respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is worth recalling that the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference acknowledges the need to achieve sustainable development in a way that integrates economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizes their inter-linkages. The Agency is uniquely positioned to continue to play a central role in the achievement of the SDGs, as part of its broader agenda to promote peaceful nuclear applications.

Brazil greatly values the Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), and sees it as a good example of South-South cooperation. Since its entry into force in 2005, ARCAL has been translating nuclear technologies into concrete benefits for our region.

As part of our national efforts, Brazil is constructing, in cooperation with Argentina, a 30-megawatt Multi-Purpose Research Reactor (RMB). The RMB will ensure Brazil's self-sufficiency in the production of radioisotopes for human health, industry and agriculture, and will have other important applications, such as research and testing of materials.

## **Nuclear safety**

Mr. President,

Brazil's has an unequivocal commitment to all pertinent international instruments in the area of nuclear safety, and has been fully implementing the Agency's voluntary standards and guidelines.

My government is participating actively in the preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, to take place in 2017. As stated in Brazil's national report, our nuclear installations continue to meet all the objectives of the CNS. The Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission has taken a series of steps to incorporate the Vienna Declaration's key concepts into our national regulations, and has a systematic review process in place, to evaluate possible gaps and necessary improvements in the safety aspects of our nuclear power plants.

Also in the area of nuclear safety, I would like to highlight the importance of the activities implemented by the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO) and its increasing cooperation with the IAEA.

### **Nuclear safeguards**

Mr. President,

Brazil fully supports the implementation of safeguards, as one of the Agency's statutory functions, and the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to increase efficiency and effectiveness in their application. In doing so, we must continue to ensure, on the one hand, that States' obligations are met and, on the other, that the Agency operates strictly within the established legal framework, taking into account the different scope and safeguards measures deriving from the distinct categories of agreements entered into by Member States. We cannot accept reinterpretations of safeguards obligations undertaken by States, including those contained in Article III of the NPT, with a view to expanding their scope and changing the voluntary nature of the IAEA Model Additional Protocol.

My delegation supports the ongoing activities by the Secretariat to update the State-level Approaches, and reiterates the importance that this process continue to be rigorously based on the Supplementary Document contained in GOV/2014/41, the assurances given by the Secretariat at the September 2014 Board of Governors session and the

Safeguards Resolutions approved since then by this General Conference. The discussion on the State-level Concept provided the Agency with an opportunity for greater accountability and transparency, and closer involvement of Member States in the development of proposed new policies. We encourage the continuation of this fruitful dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat.

Mr. President,

Last January, Brazil welcomed the achievement of the Implementation Day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, concluded between the E3/EU+3 and Iran. We took satisfaction in seeing vindicated our long-standing support for a diplomatic solution that would ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program and the normalization of Iran's relations with the Agency. Brazil has always emphasized its principled position on the need to differentiate between legal obligations of States, in accordance with their respective safeguards agreements, and confidence-building measures or agreements voluntarily entered into in a specific context. We reiterate, in this regard, that all provisions and measures contained in the JCPoA are only for the purpose of its implementation between E3/EU+3 and do not set precedents for any other State, as enshrined in the agreement itself, as well as in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 and the Board of Governors Resolution GOV/2015/72.

## **Nuclear Security**

Mr. President,

With the invaluable cooperation of other States and the IAEA, Brazil has acquired significant experience in promoting nuclear security in major public events, as was again the case in the recently concluded Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. We stand ready to continue cooperating with the Agency and other States in this area.

Brazil highlights the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally in a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent

and genuinely multilateral manner. We look forward to the IAEA's International Conference on Nuclear Security next December, with a Ministerial segment, building upon the successful 2013 Conference. We are ready to work towards an ambitious, forward-looking Ministerial Declaration, with a broader consideration of global nuclear security challenges. It is Brazil's firm conviction that nuclear security cannot be separated from 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. It must encompass also the security of the vast majority of stocks of HEU and separated plutonium in States possessing nuclear weapons.

## **Nuclear disarmament**

Mr. President,

Brazil remains fully committed to the implementation of all objectives of the NPT and the commitments undertaken in its review conferences. We will continue to engage constructively in all relevant international fora to achieve our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The IAEA has played essential disarmament verification activities in the past, either in country-specific situations or pursuant to requests from interested States. This statutory role, which has been highlighted in successive IAEA General Conference resolutions, must be supported and pursued, including with a view to the Secretariat being able to perform such tasks in the future.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Brazil regrets the fact that there is still no prospect for the CTBT's entry into force. While we welcome voluntary moratoria on nuclear explosive testing by nuclear-armed States, we stress that they are not a substitute for the CTBT. Brazil calls on all States, especially the remaining eight listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. The latest nuclear test

conducted by the DPRK is yet another reminder that nuclear tests are firmly rejected by the international community.

In order to promote new adherences to the CTBT and also ensure continued political support from those States that have already ratified it, concrete steps must be taken to ensure that the CTBT remains a meaningful instrument. In this regard, we cannot condone nuclear doctrines or policies that indicate the determination of nuclear weapon states to maintain and to modernize their nuclear arsenals. Such policies are in clear contravention of the letter and the spirit of the CTBT, and only undermine its relevance and credibility.

On this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAEA, and 70 years after the very first UN General Assembly Resolution, which called for the elimination of all nuclear arsenals, a world free of nuclear-weapons remains, regrettably, a distant goal. Some encouraging developments have, however, taken place this year, in particular the Open-Ended Working Group in Geneva, which recommended the convening of a conference to start negotiations on a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Brazil fully supports a total ban on this category of weapons of mass destruction, adding to the ones proscribing chemical and biological weapons, in anticipation of their future elimination in an effective, verifiable and irreversible manner.

## **ABACC**

Finally, Mr. President, another important event this year is the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). This binational Agency has become a symbol of an unprecedented process of transparency and confidence-building between two neighboring countries, in their determination to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

The Brazilian-Argentine experience, together with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated region of the world, constitute significant references, in particular for the establishment of

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in the Middle East, South Asia and elsewhere.

We are proud of our contribution, both past and present, to other international endeavors to bring about a more secure, safer, prosperous and peaceful world, where the higher objectives that inspired the creation of this six-decade-old Agency will truly become a reality.

Thank you, Mr. President.