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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Paulino Franco de Carvalho Neto

Secretary for Multilateral Political Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Alessandro Cortese for your election as president of the 66th General Conference of the IAEA.

This meeting takes place at a moment of growing awareness about the centrality of both power and non-power applications of nuclear technology for sustainable development. The IAEA must therefore continue to play its key role in assisting Member States in the pursuit of the benefits of nuclear technology.

Mr President,

In the case of Brazil, nuclear power is an essential part of our strategy to ensure both energy security and energy transition to a low carbon future.

Nuclear power generation will play a growing role in the Brazilian economic development: long-term energy planning foresees a growth in nuclear generation between 8 and 10 GW in the next 30 years.

Among our priorities are the conclusion of Brazil's third nuclear power plant (Angra-3), to be operational by 2026, and the construction of the Brazilian Multipurpose Reactor.

The most relevant challenges to new nuclear power capacity in Brazil are related to scale and complexity of projects, as well as to safety and security requirements.

The Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology stands as a promising option for new projects, on which Brazil is willing to acquire expertise through cooperation with interested partners.

Brazil has a dynamic nuclear sector, fully safeguarded, and in compliance with the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. This is due to continuous efforts at self-evaluation, from national legislation to technical expertise.

On the regulatory dimension, a new National Nuclear Safety Authority (ANSN) is being established through the partition of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN), thus ensuring the necessary separation of regulatory and operational functions.

This year, Brazil ratified the amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The key principles and obligations of the amended Convention had already been included in our domestic regulatory framework.

The Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage is under consideration by the Brazilian Congress. Its ratification will further demonstrate our commitment to nuclear safety.

In the last 25 years, nuclear and radiation safety in Brazil has greatly benefited from the exchange of regulatory experiences and cooperation among Ibero-American countries, facilitated by the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Bodies, known as FORO.

Last year, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. ABACC is a reference for the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. It is also an example of good practices in the area of safeguards, according to the highest standards of transparency.

Mr President,

In May, Brazil initiated discussions with the IAEA on an arrangement for Special Procedures for the use of nuclear material under safeguards in nuclear propulsion and in the operation of submarines and prototypes.

We are committed to working with the Agency to reach an appropriate technical arrangement, in line with the NPT and our safeguards obligations.

Nuclear naval propulsion is a legitimate use of nuclear energy, not prohibited by the Non-Proliferation Treaty or by any other international agreement.

In the case of Brazil, the legal framework for the verification of nuclear material to be used for naval propulsion is clearly laid out by Article 13 of the Quadripartite Agreement between Brazil, Argentina, ABACC and the IAEA, approved by the Board of Governors in December 1991. We will continue to work on the basis of our applicable commitments. Preconditions on the exercise of such rights are not acceptable, and the creation of new instances where they would be rediscussed are, in our view, unwarranted.

Mr President,

Brazil has consistently expressed its grave concern about the implications for nuclear safety, security and safeguards of the conflict in Ukraine. Avoiding a nuclear incident must be a priority for all parties. We continue to support the efforts of DG Rafael Grossi to ensure the observance of nuclear safety and security standards and the continued application of safeguards in Ukraine.

Ensuring the safety and security of nuclear installations in Ukraine is an objective better served by measured action, focused on technical aspects. Restraint should be observed in order to avoid any action that may put Ukraine's nuclear activities at risk. Brazil reiterates its call for the immediate and comprehensive cessation of hostilities in that country.

Concerning nuclear activities in Iran, we express our hope that viable diplomatic solutions to the issues currently faced by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) can be promptly found and implemented. Brazil counts on the collective commitment of the JCPOA's original participants to immediately resume full compliance with their respective obligations under

the agreement. Pending the conclusion of these negotiations, we urge all parties to refrain from any further actions that may jeopardize a possible agreement on this issue.

We also reiterate our call upon Iran to enhance its cooperation and engagement with the Agency and to fully comply with its relevant CSA obligations, so that all outstanding issues related to safeguards can be resolved.

Regarding the DPRK, dialogue is the only means to address the longstanding challenges blocking the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We urge the DPRK to fully comply with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to return to the NPT as a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State and to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Mr President,

Brazil applauds the role the IAEA has played in the remarkable democratization of access to peaceful uses of nuclear technology in recent decades.

In our region, the Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) has played a pivotal role in strengthening technical cooperation.

The development and application of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) is an important point in Brazil's cooperation with the IAEA. The Agency's assistance for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in the application of the SIT technique is an important element of efforts to control disease-transmitting mosquito populations, as a component of area-wide integrated vector management.

We are writing a new chapter in the history of nuclear energy and applications in Brazil. We count on the continued support and cooperation of the IAEA and of our international partners in achieving these goals.

Finally, let me reiterate Brazil's trust in DG Rafael Grossi's competent leadership in all areas of responsibility of the Agency, and pledge our full support to his endeavours.

Thank you.