



BRAZIL

68TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA

VIENNA, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MARIA LAURA DA ROCHA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Ham Sang Wook, on your election as President of 68th General Conference. You may count on the full support of the Brazilian delegation. I also take this opportunity to welcome Cook Islands and Somalia as new members of the IAEA.

Brazil has supported the International Atomic Energy Agency since its inception almost seventy years ago. My country has actively participated in the efforts to advance the Agency's core objectives established in its Statute: "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

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

We commend the efforts of the IAEA in facilitating access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This has been a particular demand of developing countries. We note with satisfaction the series of flagship initiatives launched by Director General Rafael Grossi, geared at leveraging the unique role of the Agency to promote peaceful nuclear applications, thus boosting the potential of nuclear science and technology in different areas, from energy and climate change, to health, food and agriculture, water management and industrial applications. Initiatives such as Rays of Hope, Zodiac, NUTEC Plastics and Atoms4Food have

been providing an important contribution to the achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

Brazil also acknowledges the vision and commitment of DG Grossi in promoting gender equality and pursuing equitable geographical distribution in the recruitment practices of the Agency and its programmatic areas.

Mr. President,

Using nuclear energy comes with important obligations regarding nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. The Agency has been consistently carrying out its statutory mission in these areas, even in our challenging times. The ongoing support and assistance mission to Ukraine is an eloquent example thereof. This groundbreaking assistance in the context of an armed conflict should serve as inspiration for other situations where Agency support is needed. Technical assistance and equipment could be provided by the Agency to help address the impact of the conflict in Gaza on the civilian population.

No less important is its role in the implementation of NPT safeguards, thus ensuring that the atom is used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Naval nuclear propulsion is a new area of verification in which the Agency is being called to lend its expertise. Since 2022 Brazil has been negotiating the special procedures foreseen in Article 13 of the Quadripartite Agreement for the use of nuclear material in its nuclear naval propulsion project. We are confident that, at the end of these negotiations, the Agency will be able to provide credible assurances of non-diversion of nuclear material, while allowing Brazil to exercise its right to use naval nuclear propulsion and protect sensitive information. The Argentine-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) has been engaged in the process, as another demonstration of Brazil's longstanding commitment to transparency and confidence-building in the nuclear field.

Mr President,

Last June we had the pleasure of welcoming DG Grossi in Brazil, where he could witness the breadth of our nuclear program and interact with high authorities about the scope of our cooperation with the Agency. Two new initiatives were included in that portfolio, namely an MoU signed for Plastic Pollution Control in Antarctica, and an agreement for the designation of the Brazilian Research Institute for Energy and Nuclear Research – IPEN – as a Collaboration Centre for Computer Security, Radiation Detection and Physical Protection - the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean. IAEA's contribution to the Brazilian presidency of G20 was also discussed, and we expect Mr Grossi to join the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting in Foz do Iguacu next month.

Brazil is actively engaged in several of the IAEA flagship initiatives. I would like to highlight Atoms4Food, which is fully aligned with our foreign policy objective of reducing food insecurity and hunger across the globe. Under our current G20 chairmanship, a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty will be launched next November at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Another IAEA initiative, Rays of Hope, for cancer treatment, has been making steady progress. The Brazilian Multipurpose Reactor (RMB) will ensure Brazil's self-sufficiency in the production of radioisotopes for human health, in particular cancer diagnosis and treatment, but also for industry and agriculture.

Mr. President,

Brazil not only benefits from the cooperation and expertise of the IAEA, but also significantly contributes to Agency's programs which have an impact in our region and beyond. It is worth mentioning those under the Regional Cooperation

Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), which is celebrating 40 years of successful cooperation with the Agency. Brazil is looking forward to discussing these experiences and possible new areas of cooperation at the upcoming IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications, to be held next November.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is proud of its contribution, both past and present, to international endeavors to bring about a more secure, safer, prosperous and peaceful world. The use of nuclear technology is key to solving the most pressing development challenges, and it is our shared responsibility to deliver this to those who need it most.

I thank you.