



PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA
Gabinete de Segurança Institucional

IV International Conference on Nuclear Security
ICONS 2024
20 May 2024, Vienna

NATIONAL STATEMENT

Your Excellency *Kairat Umarov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and*

Honorable Tim Watts, *Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, co-presidents of ICONS 2024;*

Mr. Director-General, Rafael Grossi;

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me also join the previous speakers in conveying to the government and people of Iran the Brazilian government expressions of sympathy for their tragic loss.

Brazil congratulates **Director-General Rafael Grossi** and his team for organizing another edition of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security, which highlights the importance of this issue and the central role of the Agency in coordinating international efforts.

Co-presidents,

The Brazilian nuclear program, devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes, has seen steady development and complies with the most advanced international recommendations regarding nuclear security. Brazil is fully committed to ensuring the detection, prevention, and immediate response to any hostile acts against its nuclear facilities or during the transportation of nuclear materials, as well as preventing the trafficking of radioactive materials.

Since 1980, our Nuclear Program Protection System has supervised and coordinated actions of various governmental agencies and entities, with the objective of ensuring rapid response capabilities to nuclear emergency situations.

In addition, the National Nuclear Security Authority, an independent regulatory body, has been established and is soon to become operational, in line with the best international practices.

Brazil ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2022 and actively advocates for its universalization, as the only legally binding international instrument on the physical protection of nuclear materials.

In light of the provisions of the Amended Convention, Brazil is committed to ensuring the application of the threat assessment principle in the design of its physical protection system, which enables performance-based

assessment. In this regard, I am pleased to inform that we have already concluded our National Nuclear Security Threat Assessment Report.

Co-presidents,

Given its paramount importance, nuclear security should always be addressed comprehensively, especially in the current international context marked by geopolitical challenges.

As long as there are nuclear weapons, as well as materials for military purposes not subject to any multilateral verification, measures adopted for nuclear security, though essential, will always have limited impact.

It is imperative to reverse the current trend of rapid growth in expenditures on nuclear arsenals. These resources could be better allocated to foster national development, including the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite its complexity, we cannot overlook the urgency of resuming international efforts aimed at complete nuclear disarmament. Until this objective is achieved, international peace and security are at risk. In addition to the evident catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the potential use of such weapons, the fact remains that nuclear weapons and associated nuclear materials will continue to be vulnerable to malicious acts by other actors, including non-state entities.

Co-presidents,

In the context of international efforts coordinated by the Agency, Brazil contributed last year to the establishment of the Nuclear Physical Security Training and Demonstration Centre in Seibersdorf, by providing software and simulators for nuclear security emergency exercises. Furthermore, Brazil hosts an annual cyber defense exercise named “Cyber Guardian”, which encompasses defense and response to cyber attacks on various Critical Infrastructures of the country, in particular those related to the Nuclear Sector. The Agency takes active part in this exercise, by providing simulators and specialized teams, for which we are especially grateful.

In line with these actions, I am pleased to inform that Brazil and the Agency have initiated talks for the establishment of a Collaborating Center in the field of nuclear security in our country, which will be the first in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

In conclusion, as our national nuclear sector grows, it is crucial to strengthen Nuclear Security and all its domains, as well as our capabilities and training of the workforce in nuclear security. We are also committed to reinforcing the national nuclear security architecture, by employing a threat assessment and risk-informed approach.

We count on the continued support of the Agency and other Member States and partners in achieving these goals.

Finally, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for the efforts to reach consensus on the

ministerial declaration. That not being possible, we would like to associate ourselves with the joint statement issued by the Co-Presidents.

Thank you!