



59th IAEA General Conference

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

Vienna, 14-18 September 2015

Mr President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Formica, on your election as President of this 59th 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 Azeez, of Sri Lanka, for the competent manner in which he discharged his duties as President of the 58th session.

I would also like to commend Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan for their admission to the IAEA membership.

Mr President,

Brazil attaches great importance to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, from human health, medicine and the production of radioisotopes to the nuclear fuel cycle, power generation, industry, agriculture and environmental protection. In addition to fulfilling one of the IAEA's main statutory functions, activities developed by the Departments of Technical Cooperation and Nuclear Applications also constitute a key instrument for ensuring compliance with Article IV of the NPT.

My country is convinced that nuclear technology can play a very important role with respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which shall be adopted in a few days. As highlighted in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, we all acknowledge the need to achieve sustainable development in a way that integrates economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizes their inter-linkages. The applications of nuclear energy certainly have an impact on these three dimensions.

Brazil greatly values the Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) and sees it as a good example of a mechanism for South-South cooperation. Since its entry into force in 2005, ARCAL has significantly contributed to translating nuclear technologies into concrete benefits for the sustainable development of our peoples. We therefore welcome the recent prorogation of the Agreement for another period of five years.

Mr President,

The construction of the third Brazilian nuclear power plant – Angra III – is under way, with over 50% of the work complete. The facility is expected to be connected to the national power grid by the end of 2018.

In parallel, the construction of our national 30-megawatt Multi-purpose Research Reactor (RMB) continues, with the basic engineering design being developed in

cooperation with Argentina. The RMB will ensure that Brazil is self-sufficient in the production of radioisotopes for human health, industry and agriculture. It will be used as well for other applications, such as research and the testing of materials.

Mr President,

Brazil welcomes the outcome of the Vienna Diplomatic Conference, held last February. The Vienna Declaration represents a significant building block in reinforcing the Convention's peer review mechanism and establishing principles to guide Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the implementation of the objective to prevent accidents and mitigate radiological consequences in case they occur.

My country participated actively in the Fifth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, held last May. In its national report, Brazil demonstrated that the country's nuclear power programme and the related nuclear installations have met the objectives of the Convention, by achieving and maintaining a high level of safety in the area of spent fuel and waste management, establishing and maintaining effective defences against potential radiological hazards, preventing accidents with radiological consequences and being prepared to mitigate such consequences should they occur.

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 the implementation of safeguards by the IAEA and the efforts to achieve more efficiency and effectiveness in their application. In doing so, we must continue to ensure that States' obligations are met and that the Agency 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. In this regard, my delegation appreciated the 2014 Supplementary Document on the State-level concept (SLC), which provided greater accountability and transparency on the part of the Secretariat, and closer involvement of Member States in the development of proposed new policies.

We welcome the two technical meetings held in 2015 on the implementation of safeguards and encourage the Secretariat to further its dialogue on this issue with Member States. We reiterate the view that any future steps related to the SLC, 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 received with great satisfaction the conclusion, last July, of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) between the E3/EU+3 and Iran. My country has been a staunch supporter, including through the 2010 Tehran Declaration, of a diplomatic solution to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program and the normalization of Iran's relations with the international community. Brazil also welcomes the conclusion by the IAEA and Iran of a Road-map for the clarification of past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Throughout the discussions on the implementation of safeguards in Iran, Brazil emphasized its principled position about 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. In this regard, my country noted with appreciation that the JCPoA acknowledges, *inter alia*, that all provisions and measures contained in the agreement are only for the purpose of its implementation between the parties and should not be considered as setting precedents for any other State.

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 the 2013 Nuclear Security Conference provided high-level guidance on future endeavours. In this regard, we look forward to next year's IAEA nuclear security conference, which will represent another important opportunity for high level consideration of issues in this field.

Having hosted a series of international events over the last years, with the invaluable cooperation of the IAEA, Brazil has acquired significant experience in promoting nuclear security in major public events, which will again be key for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in 2016. My country has also helped the Agency in its activities to assist Member States of our region during other events, such as the recent visit of Pope Francis to Latin America. In this regard, we are pleased to note the convening, last May, in Rio de Janeiro, of the International Seminar on Lessons Learned from Major Public Events, hosted by the Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission, under the auspices of the IAEA.

It is Brazil's firm conviction that nuclear security must be in tandem with the international community's broader 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.

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. Efforts in nuclear security are of little relevance if disconnected from global endeavours to promote peace and security through the elimination of all nuclear arsenals. A world that accepts nuclear weapons will always be insecure.

Mr President,

As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated, "We must teach an elemental truth: that status and prestige belong not to those who possess nuclear weapons, but to those who reject them". In this light, Brazil deeply regrets that the IX NPT Review Conference was not able to agree on a Final Document this year, despite the efforts undertaken by States Parties and the Presidency in order to reach a successful outcome. We remain fully committed to the implementation of all objectives of the Treaty and the commitments undertaken in its review process. To that end, we will continue to engage constructively in the relevant international fora to achieve our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

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 highlighted 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 to be a party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and of the successful partnership with Argentina that led to the Quadripartite Agreement with the IAEA and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). Those steps are significant references for other endeavours, in particular the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East. In this regard, Brazil hopes that all stakeholders will resume consultations and intensify efforts with a view to convening, at the earliest, a Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Mr President,

Brazil strongly supports the ongoing process related to raising awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any possible use of nuclear weapons, including the successful conference sponsored by the Austrian government last December.

This year marks the 70th year of the dawn of the nuclear age and the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear tests carried out since then have

increased the number of victims of nuclear activities for weapons purposes, with long-term effects. In order to honour those victims, the international community should avoid further delaying the establishment of international instruments that determine the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

The 20th year of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) will be commemorated next year. For nearly two decades, the world has been expecting the Treaty's entry into force. Brazil reiterates its long-standing call on all remaining States to sign and ratify the Treaty, especially the eight countries necessary for its entry into force. While we welcome voluntary moratoria on testing by nuclear-armed States, we stress that they do not substitute a legally binding treaty.

If we want to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, we must make sure that is a credible and meaningful disarmament tool. The international community expects the CTBT to become a truly comprehensive test ban treaty, which puts an end to the modernization and development of new nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons technologies, thus contributing to the ultimate elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Finally, my delegation would like to draw attention to the International Day against Nuclear Tests celebrated on August 29th, and to the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, to take place on September 26th. The IAEA General Conference falls between those two important dates established by the UN General Assembly. We should endeavour, in all relevant fora, including the IAEA, to convert the symbolism of such events into concrete steps towards a nuclear-weapon free world.

Thank you, Mr President.