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ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN DECLARATION ON COMMON NUCLEAR POLICY

The attached texts of the speeches made by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil at Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, on 28 November 1990, at the signing of the Argentine-Brazilian Declaration on Common Nuclear Policy^{*/} is being circulated for the information of Member States at the request of the Permanent Missions of Argentina and Brazil.

^{*/} The Declaration is reproduced in document INFCIRC/388.

**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATION, DR. CARLOS SAUL MENEM,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE FOZ DO IGUAÇU
ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN DECLARATION ON NUCLEAR POLICY**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express my great pleasure at meeting here again the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Dr. Fernando Collor de Mello, and to extend a special welcome to our distinguished guests, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Hans Blix, and the Secretary General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), Dr. Stempel Paris, whose presence on this occasion, representing as they do two important international organizations, bear due testimony to the special nature of this day.

Here in the Iguaçu region, where the natural beauties of Argentina and Brazil offer one of the most splendid spectacles in the world, we have gathered together to make statements of enormous importance for both countries. Foz de Iguaçu was witness to the beginning of an unprecedented development when two countries, Brazil and Argentina, both of them in possession of nuclear technology, decided to establish mechanisms which would encourage co-operation and build confidence in the nuclear field as part of a broad process of bilateral integration. One of these mechanisms was the opening by both parties of their nuclear installations for visits and mutual exchange of information. In this way, our predecessors, dissatisfied with the emphasis of the currently existing international systems, created a way of dealing on a regional level with a generally recognized problem, namely the need to offer the region, and indeed the world as a whole, control mechanisms for technologies which are extremely important to social development but are also capable of being misused for non-peaceful ends. These steps, however, though important, were not enough to create a structured verification and control system; we were well aware, right from the start, that the early initiatives would have to be carried further. President Collor de Mello agreed about this, and, as a result, the Argentine-Brazilian Permanent Committee on Nuclear Affairs has been authorized to undertake an intensive study of such mechanisms.

I cannot conceal my satisfaction on this day at being able to announce, in the presence of several authorities on the subject, the implementation of bilateral safeguards system. Faced with an announcement of such magnitude, one could succumb to the temptation of analysing it outside its proper context. The process of integration which is taking place between Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil is a process which embraces, in one indivisible whole, the various spheres of action of both States. One could not imagine advances in any sector of the relationship - whether in economics

and commerce, in political matters, or in safety science and technology and so on - if the rest were neglected. Only a global treatment of the various aspects of integration will enable us to preserve the required vigour and balance between peace, regional security, democracy and development.

Technology, which is the area we are concentrating on today, is of singular importance at the present time. One of the challenges facing the modern world is the need for countries to ensure that lasting and clean sources of energy are available which will guarantee continuity of development and help to preserve the environment, which is being affected in various ways by the use of conventional energy sources. The search for new energy sources and the improvement of existing ones is thus a constant preoccupation of the developing countries. The question is of particular relevance to our two countries, which on the one hand are committed to recovering the years lost in successive crises and to pushing forward productive projects, and yet at the same time are anxious to preserve the environment. Our specialists in the nuclear field are therefore conducting a thorough review of nuclear energy with respect to its efficiency and profitability, but also its capacity to spare the environment.

But these are not the only challenges which Argentina and Brazil, and countries like them, are facing at this time. The viability of development projects in our respective countries today depends very much on an ability to bring appropriate technology to bear on needs which are growing from day to day. Faced with this situation, we have claimed and exercised our legitimate right to technological autonomy and development. This firm attitude, reinforced by years of devoted work and enormous investments, has enabled our two countries to achieve significant technological advances in the nuclear field in applications which are of enormous practical value for the well-being of our peoples. The projects which have been implemented by the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission and the National Nuclear Energy Commission of the Federative Republic of Brazil deserve our recognition and support.

Guided by the same firmness of purpose, the two countries decided to place special emphasis on mutual co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the agreement signed in 1980. That document served as a basis for the important process which we initiated in this same city in 1985 when we sought to create mechanisms which would channel co-operation and encourage mutual trust. Here, I must stress the important work which has been done in this area by the Argentine-Brazilian Permanent Committee on Nuclear Affairs, the institutional channel which has served and still serves as executive arm in implementing these initiatives. During the years it has been in existence, the Committee has managed to establish solid foundations which justify us in confronting the new decade with renewed optimism. On this occasion, it is offering us an instrument of special importance.

This bilateral safeguards system which we are implementing as of now is a highly significant development both technically and politically. There was certainly no need for Argentina and Brazil to offer each other additional reciprocal assurances on the use of our technologies. Such action had been rendered unnecessary by the level of openness and mutual trust achieved by our experts and technicians. However, as I stated earlier, we cannot ignore the

responsibility incumbent upon us to offer, both to the region and to the world at large, mechanisms for verifying the actual use made of technologies which are capable of being used in two ways.

With this in mind, I would like to point out another fundamental aspect of the planned system. It is the result of a search for mechanisms capable of demonstrating the exclusively peaceful aims of our nuclear programmes and, at the same time, respecting industrial property and technological achievements. However, we are not satisfied simply with this. The progress achieved so far suggests that we should be able to offer, for the first time, a fresh approach that comes close to resolving the problems we have encountered in the broad application of safeguards. Spurred on as ever by the wish to evolve a balanced safeguards system for all nuclear activities, and encouraged by this new opportunity, we have decided to initiate joint negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency in an attempt to make our bilateral system compatible with the Agency's safeguards system. We have on other occasions indicated the importance we attribute to the IAEA's safeguards activities. We feel confident that we will have the Agency's support and co-operation in our efforts to co-ordinate the two systems and develop a regime which meets our needs, following in the footsteps of EURATOM.

No country in our region can discuss this topic without referring to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, the Tlatelolco Treaty. This pioneering document embodies the longing of the countries in this region to be free from the scourge of nuclear weapons. Its egalitarian focus was, however, not imitated in subsequent treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), one of the central tenets of which is discrimination between States. Consequently, the Argentine Republic has signed the Tlatelolco Treaty. Its ratification has, however, been seriously delayed by the problem of agreeing on safeguards consonant with the spirit of the Treaty. Subsequently, technological developments have, to our mind, rendered certain clauses of the document out of date in respect of their operational viability. Thus, the decisions which we are announcing today open up new possibilities. The setting up of a safeguards system which harmonizes our bilateral arrangements with those employed by the IAEA would overcome the main technical obstacle to our full accession to the Treaty. Other procedural aspects of the Treaty which have become difficult to implement over the years would need to be updated. With the agreement of the Government of Brazil, we therefore intend, together with the other States party to the Tlatelolco Treaty, to look at ways in which the text could be improved so that we could proceed in due course to formal legislative approval and subsequent ratification.

We are certain that the development of this special climate of confidence and co-operation between Argentina and Brazil, together with the political developments taking place in other countries of the Southern Cone, will in turn serve as a basis for further dialogue on other problems of the region. One such issue, which is clearly related to the step we are taking today, is the need to reinforce peace and security in the Southern Cone. It is of enormous importance that the countries in the area should continue to make decisive steps such as this one towards the creation of a safe, stable and prosperous zone in this part of the world. We have various conceptual

aids on which we can rely as the need arises to help us achieve this aim, always bearing in mind the principle that controversies must be solved in an exclusively peaceful manner. These aids have been taken fully into account in the document we are presenting today, which evolved from the collaboration of our two countries.

Broad application of the concept of reciprocal guarantees and the total abandonment of weapons of mass destruction are possible new steps in this direction. We might also include renunciation of the missiles which carry such arms. At the same time, the process of building mutual trust and co-operation can help us to deepen the relations between our defence forces within the region. With these and other initiatives, we feel we can move towards a common security system with shared interests and views. Such a system would enable us, should the need arise, to present a common front to possible threats and risks to our security. We are also firmly convinced that actions of this kind, rooted in the rich harvest of experience that we are now about to reap, will generate appropriate means of improving cohabitation, integration, and democratic political systems in this part of the world.

Finally, I would add that, if at any moment of folly in the past our nations have known the horror of war between brothers, we have learned the most valuable lesson of that era, and that is that peace is not one circumstance but the surest definition of the word "life". Thus, ensuring peace means ensuring the right to life of our children and grandchildren. We are leaving behind us our Good Fridays of sorrow and, dear Brazilian brothers, our glorious Easter Sunday of resurrection is dawning.

Thank you.

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT FERNANDO COLLOR AT THE POZ DE IGUACU MEETING
HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 1990**

Mr. President, the declaration which we have just signed may be justly called an historic step. It initiates a new phase in nuclear bilateral relations, opens up joint negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and leads further along the road to full implementation of the Tlatelolco Treaty. Therefore, this agreement is of importance not only for our own peoples, but also for all the peoples of Latin America and other regions. Its far-ranging importance is demonstrated by the presence with us today of our guests and witnesses: Dr. Stempel Paris, the Secretary General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, and Dr. Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This document marks a final step in overcoming any remnants of competition between our countries in the nuclear field. It completes the process which began with the joint declaration on nuclear policy signed in this very city in 1985.

The impressive speed with which changes have occurred on the international scene has not taken Brazil and Argentina by surprise. Already, in the joint declarations on nuclear policy signed, after Iguacú, at Brasilia, Viedma, Iperó and Ezeiza, and through a series of presidential visits and reciprocal technical missions, we had been fostering co-operation between our countries, encouraging complementarity in our programmes, and enhancing the transparency of our purposes. In short, this moment of notable harmony in our intentions is something we had been preparing for.

Now, when the world is applauding the peace which has been established in Europe after two world wars and long years of cold war, we are proud of the early conclusion we have reached in our attempts to achieve greater openness and mutual confidence between our two countries in the nuclear field. Without having gone through the cruel apprenticeship of war or the sterility of military competition, our peoples will show that they know that science and technology do better service in the cause of peace than in the cause of war.

Now that democracy has been restored, we are dedicating ourselves exclusively to ideals worthy of modern civilized countries: economic growth, social development, environmental conservation, the promotion of world peace, and the prosperity and happiness of our people. As I said in Buenos Aires in July of this year, the consolidation of a common destiny for Brazil and Argentina should contribute towards strengthening democracy in our two countries and ensuring the maintenance of peace on the continent.

The bilateral initiatives taken today are innovatory. We are sanctioning a common accounting and control system which will be implemented forthwith and applied to all nuclear activities in both countries, including enrichment and reprocessing. Over the next 45 days we shall be exchanging information on all nuclear facilities and materials within Argentina and Brazil. We shall then proceed to make the first reciprocal inspections of our centralized accounting systems. These initiatives guarantee the total mutual openness of our nuclear programmes.

Extending our dialogue to the international forum, we have taken the decision to negotiate jointly with the International Atomic Energy Agency a safeguards agreement which will incorporate adjustments appropriate to our common accounting and control system.

The willingness of Brazil and Argentina to seek new modalities of co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency opens up a new era of promise for relations between our two countries and the international community in the area of scientific and technological exchange. This gesture shows that we do not reject additional guarantees of our peaceful intentions in the nuclear technology field, because we have nothing to hide. We do, on the other hand, reject firmly and clearly discriminatory régimes which enshrine a politically unjust international order where power is the only criterion.

This pledge to use scientific knowledge for exclusively peaceful purposes lies at the root of our repeated defence of the right to full technological autonomy and capability - a right which can no longer be denied us, either on the increasingly unconvincing pretext that our research might be misdirected towards non-peaceful objectives, or in order to provide a subtle form of protection for economic privileges which could convert the colonialism of the past into a harmful post-colonialism of knowledge.

I feel certain, and I feel sure your Excellency agrees with me, that the commitments made today and those which are to take shape in the near future, added to the traditions of our peoples, the process of integration binding us to a single objective, and the repeated declarations of our predecessors, will be more than sufficient to ensure our unimpeded access to international channels of scientific and technological co-operation.

Moreover, I note with great satisfaction our agreement in principle to the effect that, as soon as we have concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, we will both move towards implementing the Tlatelolco Treaty, an achievement which will doubtless bring this singularly successful process of rapprochement between our two great republics to a triumphant conclusion.

These actions, undertaken by common agreement and at the same time, consolidate an understanding which I can with due pride call exemplary. Of the developing countries, Argentina and Brazil are among the most advanced in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. As result we have been threatened time and again with unjustified restrictions - unjustified but none the less effective as a means of inflicting economic and social damage upon us. In

signing this declaration, which commits us to an unprecedented variety of bilateral measures and proposals aimed at the collective good, we are putting ourselves forward as a model of co-operation, integration, mutual confidence, and understanding for all other States.

Few nations have achieved the degree of openness and collaboration with their neighbours which we are inaugurating here. Today, Brazil and Argentina are speaking in absolute accord, a fact which will earn us greater respect and make us a more convincing force in the world at large. The mutual assurances we are giving each other are, for us, the ultimate foundation for any other international guarantees. We know - and we would be pleased to see others learn the same lesson - that co-operation brings confidence, integration consolidates security, and the common pursuit of progress means certain peace. In this way, our peoples will overcome all mistrust by the force of their democratic will. Let us confirm once again our peaceful vocation as, with a firm and swift step, we move ever closer to our great destiny.