

## **STATEMENT BY BRAZIL**

### **IAEA 44th GENERAL CONFERENCE - 2000**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over this Conference. Under your capable guidance, I am sure, we will arrive at a successful conclusion. Please be assured of my delegation's full cooperation. I also wish to congratulate and welcome The Central African Republic, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan on their admission as new members of the Agency.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first refer to some of the main themes of our agenda, such as nuclear safety, technical co-operation and safeguards.

#### **Nuclear Safety**

Brazil considers nuclear safety fundamental for the promotion of nuclear energy before public opinion. We believe that the future of nuclear technology in Brazil, and for that matter in all countries, is closely associated with the safety measures that may be taken in order to improve its reliability and cleanliness, thus ensuring a higher degree of acceptance of the many peaceful uses of the atom. We therefore highly commend the work undertaken by the Agency to accomplish a global safety regime in which Member States can be assisted in the implementation of state of the art standards for the safe use of nuclear energy.

Brazil would like to thank the Agency for its prompt response to the request for a technical evaluation mission on the nuclear waste deposits in the Angra I power plant. Its recommendations were very useful to the national efforts towards the improvement of nuclear waste management and disposal in Brazil.

#### **Transportation of Nuclear Materials**

Having a coastal extension of over 7000 kms, Brazil is greatly concerned with the increasing frequency of operations of maritime international transportation of radioactive material and nuclear waste. The potential risks posed to the health of coastal populations and the marine environment of transit countries are a source of special preoccupation for Brazil and for several other countries of the Southern Cone, which have been advocating the strengthening of the international regime governing this issue.

## **Technical Co-operation**

My Delegation would like to reiterate its strong support for the Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Sciences and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL). Since its inception, in 1984, this regional program has been fostering numerous projects in nuclear applications in areas such as human health, environment, agriculture and industry, all of which have a strong social impact. Brazil would like, thus, to congratulate ARCAL for the invaluable contribution it has brought to the development plans of the countries of the region, as well as the Secretariat, for a very efficient management of the program.

Brazil expects that the Technical Co-operation Program of the Agency will continue to attach due priority to nuclear power generation, to the application of radiation and isotope technologies, particularly in the fields of environment, water resource management and medicine, as well as to the management and disposal of radioactive waste. Brazil also deems important that the member States' own interests continue to be duly taken into account in the decision making process regarding the approval of technical co-operation projects and activities.

## **Safeguards**

Mr. Chairman,

The agreements reached by the Board of Governors on the fundamental issues of the financing of technical co-operation and the financing of safeguards reflect, in our view, a growing perception of the common responsibility by Member States for the achievement of shared objectives in the areas of technology transfer and verification. The mechanism envisaged for the financing of Technical Co-operation, based on the concept of 'rate of attainment', should help achieve the common objective of making contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund predictable, assured and sufficient. The abolition of the so called 'shielding system' over a reasonable period of time and the decision to undertake a permanent review of safeguards implementation in order to ensure its cost-effectiveness, on the other hand, are the most relevant features of the draft resolution on the financing of safeguards recommended by the Board of Governors. In view of new activities which

the Agency is likely to be asked to undertake in the near future, we attach particular importance to the constant search for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in safeguards implementation.

In this connection, Brazil welcomes the steps that are being taken in order to integrate the traditional and the new safeguard measures and hopes that the challenges to accomplishing the so-called integrated safeguards will be met, so as to put in place the necessary streamlining and efficiency of safeguards implementation. My delegation believes that the co-operation between the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) and the IABA will be instrumental to the efficiency and to the streamlining of the safeguards system, by, inter alia, avoiding the unnecessary duplication of efforts.

Brazil, Argentina and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) have initiated informal contacts with the Secretariat on a future Protocol Additional to the Quadripartite Agreement for the Application of Safeguards. We are confident that our unique and successful bilateral confidence-building experience in the nuclear field will add a significant contribution to the international nuclear verification system.

## **Disarmament**

Mr. Chairman,

I shall now refer to the successful conclusion of the 6th NPT Review Conference, which recognised the work of the TABA with regard to technology transfer, safety and verification, as well as the paramount importance of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. For the first time the five nuclear weapon states assumed the unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The establishment of a concrete and detailed program of action will provide a checklist against which it will be possible to evaluate the progress achieved in years to come.

As a member of the 'New Agenda Coalition', Brazil is honored to have contributed to the successful conclusion of the NPT Review Conference and expects that all commitments included in the final document are soon translated into concrete steps. It is also our belief that the groundbreaking achievements reached at the Review Conference could contribute to reverse the negative atmosphere which prevailed in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in the last few years. If the opportunity is taken, the momentum

gathered could contribute to breaking the

impasse that has paralysed the Conference on Disarmament, and encourage countries to proceed with the ratifications needed for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

### **Brazilian Nuclear Program**

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2000 has brought along major developments in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Brazil. The greatest achievement this past year was the entry into operation of Angra II nuclear power plant. Angra II is already generating electricity at more than 80% of its total capacity and will add to the national power grid 1300 Mw when it is fully operational. Its integration to the Brazilian electricity grid comes at a very appropriate moment, contributing to the country's economic recovery, which is strongly dependent on electricity generation capacity.

As regards the implementation of the nuclear fuel cycle on an industrial scale, the following developments are worth mentioning: the start of uranium extraction activities at a new mine, which is expected to produce enough uranium to fulfil a great part of the domestic needs; and the inauguration of a new plant for the reconversion of uranium hexafluoride and for the fabrication of uranium dioxide pellets.

Decentralisation efforts in national nuclear policy have resulted in the creation of Nuclear Research Centres for the Center West and the North East Regions of Brazil.

Constant investments in recent years have brought about remarkable improvements in the quality and quantity of the production of radiopharmaceuticals. Domestic capacity has doubled if compared to levels of 1995, and the level of excellence achieved by the Brazilian Institute For Nuclear and Energy Research (IPEN) is internationally recognised.

In short, the Brazilian Nuclear Program continues to be in line with the overall development objectives established by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, which basically aim at promoting economic growth in tandem with improving social conditions in Brazil.

Thank you.