

**47th Session of the IAEA General Conference
September 2003**

Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Roberto Abdenur, Head of the Brazilian Delegation to the 47th Session of the IAEA General Conference

Mr. President,

Let me start by presenting you the Brazilian delegation's sincere congratulations for your election to preside over the 47th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. My delegation is prepared to give you and the Vice-Presidents elected today our full support and co-operation. I want also to express our delegation's appreciation for the Director-General's comprehensive presentation .

Once again, we have the opportunity at this Conference for an evaluation of the Agency's most recent cycle of activities, in the context of its mission to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, as enshrined in Article II of its Statute. As a founding Member State Brazil has, throughout the Agency's existence, devoted its best efforts to co-operate with and support the various IAEA's initiatives in pursuing that objective. Brazil's commitment to the uses of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes is enshrined in our Constitution, thus representing a fundamental and constant principle of our foreign policy; we remain convinced, at the same token, of the potential benefits derived from the responsible use of nuclear technologies for the implementation of the national development policies of developing countries. For this end, international co-operation in the nuclear field is of great importance; the IAEA has a unique role to play in this area.

We reaffirm our support to the Agency's activities and acknowledge its outstanding work in the three pillars of Nuclear Verification, Technical Co-operation and Nuclear Safety, which contributes to the objectives of the international community with regard to Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and to the use of nuclear energy in the context of sustainable development.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

The IAEA has a special mission, which is to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy and at the same time prevent its diversion to the production of nuclear weapons. It is the sole entity with a mandate and the expertise to evaluate Member States' compliance with their obligations under the NPT safeguards agreements. As the discussions on non-proliferation efforts have come to be at the center of the international agenda, we should not lose sight of the equally pressing need for effective action towards full implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments agreed by consensus, under the aegis of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The main objective of the NPT, embraced by countries like Brazil, is to avoid the dissemination of the most potent of the weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, with a view to their total elimination – certainly not to guarantee its possession by a few countries which had crossed the threshold of nuclear weapons acquisition when the treaty was signed.

The grave concerns of Member States of the IAEA with the possibility of new initiatives to proliferate, which we so clearly voiced most recently – and my delegation's was one of those clear voices - can only be matched by equally forceful appeals for clear measures of disarmament at the meeting next year of the III Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

Last year my delegation referred to worrying signs of policy decisions and other attitudes and initiatives which are not conducive to the achievement of the objectives set forth in Article VI of the NPT.

After having unequivocally committed themselves, in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, to undertake the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, nuclear-weapon States are yet to show real readiness to move towards that end. To our dismay, some seem even inclined to backtrack on those commitments, as they give signs they might be considering the development of new nuclear weapons systems and the revision of nuclear doctrines. The international community cannot thus but note with concern that new roles for nuclear weapons are being considered. This is a cause of dismay for countries that, like Brazil, are fully committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In other fundamental instances of the multilateral nuclear disarmament scenario, another year has passed and no progress has been

made: we notice that the stagnation of deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament has remained; and the fact that another Conference under article XIV of the CTBT has gone by, only a fortnight ago, without any significant progress towards the ratification of the Treaty by Annex II countries and on the process for the entry into force of the Treaty.

We firmly believe that global cooperation with a view to agreeing upon effective disarmament measures based on verifiable and non-discriminatory obligations is essential for a stable and secure international system. We therefore renew our appeal to all nations to intensify their endeavors in order to reverse the present negative trends, both as regards the upholding of disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and commitments agreed by consensus at the international level, and in what concerns other initiatives of fundamental significance, as could be the adoption of new undertakings regarding tactical nuclear weapons, and measures to promote the entry into force of the CTBT as soon as possible. Initiatives like these, Mr. President, are necessary to help secure politically the non-proliferation regime.

My delegation is glad, Mr. President, that at least one initiative we took note of last year has bore fruit: we welcome with particular satisfaction the fact that Cuba has acceded to the NPT and signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the AIEA, and has ratified the Tlatelolco Treaty, whose next States Party Conference, to be held in November, will take place in Havana. These decisions contribute to the universalization of the NPT and have the important effect of now bringing all Latin American and Caribbean countries into the Tlatelolco Treaty, which established the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the world. We take note as well of the fact that the Government of Cuba has decided to sign an Additional Protocol to its safeguards agreement.

As we are still living under the impact of the dreadful events of September 11th 2001, Brazil once again reiterates its firm commitment to contribute to the international efforts to combat all forms of terrorism, including possible malicious acts involving nuclear material. We also fully share the concerns about the risk of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists. In our view, such a threatening possibility only reinforces the need to work towards the objective of nuclear disarmament. On the other hand, we must be careful to ensure that the discussion of measures to countenance the possible use of nuclear weapons by terrorists does not result in any justification, even if implicit,

for the indefinite retention of nuclear weapons by States – a situation which has proved to be of no avail to combat this threat.

Programme and Budget for 2004-2005

Mister President,

Allow me to refer to the recent negotiations on the programme and budget of the Agency for 2004-2005, which resulted in the approval by the Board of Governors, last July, of a package including agreement on a revised level of the Agency's regular budget, as well as several other measures of fundamental importance for the future of the IAEA.

The overall increase approved represents a drastic departure from the Zero Real Growth policy and is heavily skewed towards major Programme 4. Throughout the negotiating process, Brazil, which now chairs the Group of 77 and China, although reaffirming the importance attached by the Group to the verification activities of the Agency, made it clear, with the support and assistance of other countries, that in dealing with such major increase, it was imperative to preserve the profile of the Agency in terms of the balance between its statutory missions.

Despite the fact that the increases proposed would bring about an added financial burden to developing countries, the Group of 77 played a very constructive role in the negotiating process, showing ample readiness to negotiate.

The package that was approved by the Board includes, in addition to the increases in the regular budget, such elements as the recognition that an appropriate balance shall be maintained between promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency, the decision that from 2005 onwards TCF targets shall be negotiated based on the changes in the level of the Regular Budget, a review of the rate of attainment mechanism, an assessment of the implications of harmonizing the Agency's regular and TC cycles, the postponement of the de-shielding process during the phasing-in period and the temporary suspension of APCs.

Brazil is of the view that the package is a successful common achievement, which provides us with a sounder basis on which to continue to carry out the task of enhancing the IAEA's role as a major UN organisation. We are also aware that the elements of the package will entail, from now on, the need for successive exercises in dialogue and negotiation. To this end, Brazil looks forward to engaging an enhanced interaction with the Secretariat, as well as with other parties. We trust

that the spirit in which this package was negotiated and approved will be duly honoured.

Safeguards

I now turn to the verification pillar of the Agency. Brazil regards the safeguards system of the IAEA as a major element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, whose universality we strongly support.

In relation to the strengthening of the safeguards systems, Brazil would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the very substantial progress achieved in the development of the integrated safeguards with the conclusion of its conceptual framework and model integrated safeguards approaches for several types of nuclear facilities. We urge the Secretariat to continue to give the highest priority to this subject.

We welcome the progress achieved in the co-operation between the Agency and ABACC for the application of safeguards under the Quadripartite Agreement. Significant improvements have been reached with the establishment of guidelines for joint safeguards activities at several nuclear facilities and procedures for unannounced inspections and for common use of safeguards equipment. These improvements should be reflected in the safeguards activities in the field. Brazil recalls the high importance that we attach to the co-operation between ABACC and the Agency and requests that both Agencies continue to pursue co-ordination as a permanent goal in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and to achieve cost-effectiveness in safeguards activities.

Implementation of NPT Safeguards in Iran

Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased that the Board succeeded in approving a resolution about Iran's nuclear activities and that this was done without a vote.

We regret, however, that it was not possible to reach an outcome that would ensure the highest possible level of engagement with the resolution adopted.

While reiterating our preference not to have established strict deadlines, we strongly urge Iran to ensure that the cooperation required is

provided without delay, so as to allay the grave concerns of the international community at the unresolved matters related to Iran's fulfilment of its safeguards obligations.

We trust Iran will further enhance its cooperation with the Agency, by ensuring full transparency, providing all the information deemed necessary, and granting unrestricted access to any location and installations the Agency may request to inspect.

We are confident that this pattern of cooperation will prevail in the interest of Iran itself and of the entire international community, and that a process leading to a satisfactory conclusion of this issue will not be disturbed by lack of transparency and lack of timely measures on the part of Iran, nor by premature conclusions that would not be founded on a clear and definitive assessment by the Agency of Iran's fulfilment of its obligations.

Technical Cooperation

Mr. President,

Brazil once again would like to reiterate the high degree of importance it attaches to the IAEA Technical Co-operation activities, as they constitute one of the pillars of this organization. By implementing the Technical Co-operation Program, the Agency fulfils both the statutory objective of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the mandated originated from Article IV of the NPT.

When using resources available to Technical Co-operation, the Agency should concentrate its efforts in those projects where nuclear and ionizing radiation applications play a vital role and therefore fall into the core competency of this Organization. The observance of this principle would help "sharpen the focus" and improve the overall quality of the Technical Co-operation Program.

We reiterate our support to regional co-operative approaches, such as the Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Sciences and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL).

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Brazil attaches great importance to nuclear safety in all its aspects. The safe operation of nuclear facilities is key to the public acceptance of nuclear energy.

Brazil notes with appreciation the large number and high quality of the safety standards and safety guides issued by the Secretariat in 2002.

I would like to recall that Brazil has actively participated in the second Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The results of this second Review Meeting show that the main objective of the Convention, which is to contribute to the strengthening of nuclear safety, is being met. We highly appreciate the work that is being carried out by the IAEA with a view to fostering the safety culture concept.

The Brazilian Government is very pleased to point out the success of the “Conference on Safety Culture in Nuclear Installations”, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in December 2002, and was attended by a great number of specialists from all continents. The Rio Conference demonstrated that safety culture is now recognized throughout the world as a crucial element of nuclear safety.

Concerning radiological emergencies, it is important to develop a national capacity to respond to radiological emergencies arising from accidents and deliberate acts. My delegation appreciates the work carried out by the Agency in this regard and believes that it is necessary to ensure that the Agency’s Emergency Response System has adequate conditions to carry out its functions reliably, and to strengthen them to better address Member States’ expectations.

Safe Transport of Radioactive Material

Mr. President,

In view of the potential risks posed to coastal populations and to the marine environment in the event of an accident during operations of maritime transport of radioactive material and nuclear waste, Brazil has supported initiatives aiming at the progressive strengthening of international norms governing this issue. The “Appraisal for Brazil of the Safety of the Transport of Radioactive Material” as a result of the

Transport Regulations Appraisal Mission – TRANSAS 2 - carried out early last year in Brazil has been issued by the Agency. The findings of the mission acknowledged that Brazil already has a sound transport regulatory system in place. Recommendations have been made in order to streamline or improve our regulatory practices; the appraisal also identified good practices that can serve as a model for other competent authorities in the radioactive material transport sector.

We welcome the results of the International Conference on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive material, which took place in Vienna, from 7 to 11 July. We note with satisfaction the widespread acceptance of this call for a technical and dispassionate dialogue and appraisal of the questions related to the safe transportation of radioactive material.

In tackling this issue, we believe that the General Conference should continue to promote dialogue and to build upon agreed concepts and guidelines, so as to address the legitimate concerns of countries situated along the routes of such transport operations, as well as the interests of transporting countries, including the rights established in international law.

Maintenance of Knowledge in Nuclear Science and Technology

Mr. President,

Brazil attaches special importance to the activities of the Agency in the area of preservation of knowledge, through a well-structured, coherent and coordinated approach.

We welcome the progress made by the Secretariat in this area. Brazil considers that the project needs to have its scope enlarged in order to address other areas, such as nuclear science and its applications and nuclear safety. Such a kind of project must be developed in an integrated manner across the Secretariat program.

We fully endorse the view that nuclear technology can only have a positive development if the vast existing repository of knowledge can be kept retrievable and active, through constant use and continuous evolution, and counting on an adequate workforce of scientists and professionals so as to guarantee the safe and effective application of nuclear technology. In this regard, Brazil notes with appreciation the creation of the World Nuclear University.

Mr President,

We have heard with interest the remarks made this morning by the Director General on international cooperation on the nuclear fuel cycle. He specifically referred to possible critical choices to be faced in the future in the area of fuel cycle design and operation, in order to address proliferation concerns and waste management.

We take note of his views on the possible role of international centres under multilateral control for constraining the use of weapons-usable material in civilian programmes. We also note his suggestion that the processing of such material and the production of new material could also be limited to international centres; and that the international community could look into multinational approaches to the management and disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

While thanking the Director General for his remarks, we note that his ideas are still of a very preliminary nature. We would be willing to study them, in due course, when the Director General presents them in a more elaborated form.

We cannot fail to point out, however, the far-reaching implications that such a model would have for the conduction and operation of national programmes for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It is our view that the international community's concerns with respect to non-proliferation, safety, security and technical challenges facing nuclear power must always be addressed in a manner that fully takes into account the principles of universality, transparency, and the inalienable right of all countries and peoples to scientific and technological development, as well as to access the benefits of nuclear energy and its peaceful applications in all fields.

Thank you.