

**49th Session of the IAEA General Conference
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Statement by His Excellency Ambassador Celso Marcos Vieira de Souza, Head of the Brazilian Delegation to the 49th Session of the IAEA General Conference

Mr. President,

Let me start by presenting to you the Brazilian delegation's sincere congratulations for your election to preside over the 49th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is an honour for Brazil to see an active member of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries as president of this very important event. My delegation is prepared to extend to you and to the Vice-Presidents our full support and co-operation.

I also wish to present our congratulations to Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei for his re-election and express our appreciation for the comprehensive presentation he made yesterday.

On behalf of the Brazilian government, we welcome Belize as new member of the Agency.

Once more, we have the opportunity at this Conference to evaluate 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 always devoted its best efforts to co-operate with and to 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 and represents a fundamental principle of our foreign policy.

We remain convinced of the potential benefits derived from the responsible use of nuclear technologies in the implementation of national development policies, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, international co-operation in the nuclear field is of great importance and the IAEA has a unique role to play in that regard.

Brazil reaffirms its support to the Agency's activities and acknowledges its outstanding work in the pillars of Nuclear Verification, Technical Co-operation and Nuclear Safety, which contribute to the

objectives of the international community with regard to Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and to the use of nuclear energy for 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 their respective NPT safeguards agreements. As the discussions on non-proliferation efforts have become central in the international agenda, we should not lose sight of the equally pressing need for effective action towards the 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).

After having unequivocally committed, at 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. We note with concern that very little progress has been achieved in that direction and that some Nuclear-Weapon States seem even inclined to backtrack on those commitments.

The lack of results at the VII NPT Review Conference, last May, and the absence of consensus on the chapter on disarmament and non-proliferation in the final document for the High Level Summit at the United Nations are clear signs of the current negative trends.

This is a cause of dismay for countries that, like Brazil, are fully committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In other multilateral disarmament fora, another year has passed without any significant developments. The impasse for the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament remains. And the IV Conference to Facilitate the Entry into Force of CTBT, held a fortnight ago, illustrates the fact that, almost ten years after its adoption, the treaty has not yet entered into force. Brazil thus urges all annex II countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

We believe that measures to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime must be accompanied by measures to accelerate progress towards nuclear disarmament. We therefore renew our appeal to

all nations to intensify their endeavours 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.

In this context, my delegation notes with appreciation the contribution of the countries in our region to the universalisation of the NPT and the strengthening of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. All Latin American and Caribbean countries have adhered to the Tlatelolco Treaty, establishing the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated region of the world.

Terrorism

Mr. President,

Brazil once again reiterates its firm support for 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.

My delegation notes the approval, by the September Session of the Board of Governors, of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009. Brazil is pleased to see that the new Plan stresses that responsibility for the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials rests entirely with the State and that adherence to Agency guidelines and recommendations related to enhancing security is voluntary and must respect the primacy of the State in security issues. Brazil also notes that the activities foreseen in the Plan will continue to be funded by contributions made to the Nuclear Security Fund on a voluntary basis and that funding from the regular budget will continue to be limited. In this connection, Brazil would like to stress that a balance must exist among the activities of the Agency, in terms of the financial resources and attention that they receive, and that any additional activities in the field of protection against nuclear terrorism should not affect the priorities and the resources of the Technical Cooperation Program, which is of fundamental importance for developing countries.

Mr. President, allow me to turn now to the amendment process of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Brazil actively supported the process to enlarge the scope of the Convention

from its beginning, based on the perception that the unprecedented challenges that the international community faced over the past years made it clear that the legal framework to deal with those challenges, including the CPPNM, had to be strengthened. In this context, my country had a very active participation in the open-ended Group of Legal and Technical Experts to prepare a draft amendment of the Convention, convened by the Director General in 2001, and in the Amendment Conference that took place last July.

We are convinced that a strengthened Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material could be an important instrument to help us face those unprecedented challenges. Therefore, despite some concerns with regard of aspects of the amendments proposed, Brazil joined the consensus on the amended Protocol to the Convention, that will be in force once ratified by States Parties, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

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, the universality of which we strongly support.

My delegation was actively involved in the discussions that led to the creation, last June, of a Committee on Safeguards and Verification. We note with satisfaction that this Committee of the Board of Governors has an advisory status and will operate within the framework of the IAEA Statute. Brazil also appreciates the fact that the Committee will be composed by all Members of the Board and that other Member States may participate in its work, and is ready to contribute to the work of the Committee.

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 and the implementation of integrated safeguards. We urge the Secretariat to continue to give the highest priority to this subject, with a view to increasing the efficiency and the cost-effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system.

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 the Safeguards Agreement (NPT) in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. President, my delegation would like to refer to the resolution on the implementation of safeguards in Iran adopted by vote on 24 September. My country is of the view that all issues pertaining to international peace and security should be preferably resolved through dialogue and cooperation. Brazil reiterates its position to the effect that the present issue should continue to be treated within the Agency and that all efforts should be made towards a peaceful and long-lasting solution. In this context, Brazil trusts that the resolution adopted will allow some more time for diplomatic efforts to continue.

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 arising 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 competence 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). Brazil believes that the development of a strategic alliance between the

Agency and ARCAL, which is being discussed by Parties to the Agreement and by the IAEA, will improve the outcome of regional projects under ARCAL, thus benefiting countries in our region and the provision of technical cooperation by the IAEA itself.

Brazil notes the restructuring of the Department of Technical Cooperation into four regions, the process to review and redesign the TC programme cycle framework and the development of a new web-based information technology (IT) platform. My country also takes note of the fact that restructuring and reengineering of the TC programme cycle and managerial changes are coordinated and sequenced for introduction in a phased manner. Brazil expects that the changes proposed and being implemented will translate into the strengthening of the TC Department's capacity to implement the TC Programme.

Nuclear Safety

Mr. President, my country attaches great importance to nuclear safety in all its aspects. We consider that safety is an essential element to promote the public acceptance of nuclear power and other applications of nuclear energy. In this regard, we have made a political commitment to work towards following the guidance contained in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

My country notes with appreciation both the number and the quality of the safety standards and safety guides issued by the Secretariat in 2004. In particular, we welcome the publication of those related to the design of nuclear power plants, as well as of the one on the Management of Waste from the Use of Radioactive Materials in Medicine, Industry and Research. We commend the Agency's work in developing standards for nuclear-fuel facility safety and are of the view that the development of such standards should be given high priority.

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 findings of the TRANSAS mission carried out in Brazil in 2002 acknowledged that Brazil already has a sound transport regulatory system in place and identified good

practices that can serve as a model for other competent authorities in the radioactive material transport sector.

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 project must be developed in an integrated manner across the Secretariat programmes.

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 gives great importance to the establishment of the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network, which will be a very useful instrument to strengthen the sharing of existing knowledge and expertise among our countries, and is of the view that the International Nuclear Information System represents an important tool for the overall objectives of knowledge maintenance and preservation.

With these comments, Mr. President, I conclude Brazil's statement.

Thank you.

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