



**62<sup>nd</sup> IAEA General Conference**  
**Vienna, 17-21 September 2018**

**Statement by**  
**H. E. Ambassador Marcel Biato**  
**Permanent Representative of Brazil**  
**to the IAEA and PrepCom-CTBTO**

Madam President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Marta Ziaková, of Slovakia, on your election as President of this 62nd session of the IAEA General Conference. I wish to thank Ambassador Collinson, of the Philippines, for the competent manner in which she discharged her duties as President of the 61<sup>st</sup> session.

Madam President,

Nuclear energy and technology are invaluable sources of progress and prosperity for all. Brazil is a founding Member State of the IAEA and benefits from the undeniable economic, social and technological advantages of having a diversified nuclear sector. My country has always been committed, legally and politically, to the uses of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes and is therefore equally dedicated to helping forge a world free of the scourge of nuclear weapons and military doctrines based thereon.

Brazil is laying the groundwork for an ambitious agenda aimed at further strengthening its nuclear industry sector, in line with growing social and economic demands. A high-level government committee established last year has proposed measures to improve governance, clarify institutional attributions, eliminate redundancies and encourage complementarity between agencies and processes.

Once approved by Congress, this nuclear policy review will establish long-term guidelines for Brazil's nuclear sector, with clear goals and defined objectives in organizational, scientific and technological matters. More specifically, it will address major challenges facing the country in the field of nuclear power generation, as well as in promoting nuclear medicine, agricultural pest control and environmental monitoring.

Among the most crucial aspects of Brazilian nuclear policy under review are measures to: (a) improve uranium mining and processing activities in the Brazilian nuclear fuel industry; (b) expand industrial capacity for nuclear fuel production; (c) finish construction and commission of a third nuclear power plant; and (d) design and build the Brazilian Multipurpose Nuclear Reactor (RMB).

Madam President,

Last June, President Michel Temer took part in the ground-breaking ceremony of the Multipurpose Research Reactor (RMB) at the Aramar Nuclear Industrial Center in Iperó (SP). The project includes a 30 MW research reactor as well as several associated facilities and laboratories. These will provide the country with a science, technology and innovation infrastructure of fundamental importance to the nuclear sector. Its most immediate purpose will be radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals production, thus expanding country-wide access to nuclear medicine. The RMB is the result of a partnership between the National Nuclear Energy Commission, represented by the Energy and Nuclear Research Institute (IPEN); the Navy Technological Center in São Paulo (CTMSP); AMAZUL, a company under the Navy; and INVAP, a company from Argentina.

The RMB will make Brazil self-sufficient in the production of radiopharmaceuticals currently imported at high cost. This will ensure timely diagnosis and make radiotherapy available for all patients undergoing treatment for various diseases in the fields of cardiology, oncology, haematology and neurology. The reactor will make it easier to detect cancer and treat pulmonary embolism, heart conditions and other diseases. By reducing the costs of imaging tests, it will make X-rays and CT scans, in hospitals and public and private clinics, more widely available.

This ambitious project for improving healthcare in Brazil is fully in line with the priority given by Director General Yukiya Amano to the concept of atoms for peace and development. Not only in Brazil, but also in the many developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia where the Agency has been actively collaborating, the DG's vision for greater access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology is coming true.

The benefits of nuclear technology are equally obvious in agriculture. Nowhere are the gains derived from nuclear applications clearer than in the IAEA Sterile Insect Technique, which has significantly contributed to increasing food productivity. Its versatility, as that of nuclear technologies in general, is attested to by the fact that it is now being used to combat insect-transmitted diseases.

Madam President,

Efforts are ongoing to bring our third nuclear power plant (Angra 3) on-stream, along with relevant investment needed in non-pollutant, competitively-priced energy sources. Nuclear generation will continue to be a major component of our energy mix in the foreseeable future.

With this objective in mind, Brazil has steadily expanded its capacity for isotopic enrichment of uranium, with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency. The enrichment facility at Resende, Rio de Janeiro, is gradually bringing onstream additional cascades of ultracentrifuges required to meet expanding fuel requirements of our nuclear power plants.

The increased production also opens the way for Brazil to become a reliable supplier. Brazil's technological capacity and trustworthiness were on show when, in November 2016, it made its first shipment (4,100 kg) of enriched uranium powder (UO<sub>2</sub>) to the Argentine company CONUAR. Further export operations are scheduled over the coming months.

Madam President,

Brazil's focus on developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy goes hand in hand with our unequivocal commitment to the pursuit of the highest levels of nuclear safety and security. My country supports all nuclear safety conventions and instruments. In particular, our nuclear installations in our national facilities and activities continue to meet all the objectives of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

In parallel to following through with regular domestic nuclear safety and security exercises, Brazil takes part in IAEA emergency preparedness and response activities. Furthermore, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, held in Rio de Janeiro, provided an opportunity to further enlarge Brazil's experience in dealing with nuclear security issues. We look forward to continuing the collaborative work with other States and the IAEA initiated on that occasion.

Madam President,

Brazil is organizing four side events on the margins of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference, focusing on areas such as mining, nuclear medicine and denials and delays of shipments, as well as on the latest developments in our nuclear programme. Apart from the renewed dynamism of the Brazilian nuclear sector, these presentations attest to our commitment to full transparency and open engagement with the international community on nuclear matters. The Brazilian delegation includes the CEOs of many of our major nuclear sector institutions, in recognition of the central role played by the Agency as a forum for dialogue and as a facilitator in the introduction of new technologies and best practices in this field.

Madam President,

Brazil reiterates its conviction that the world should rid itself of all non-peaceful use of nuclear energy. Brazil cannot but regret that nuclear weapons states not only insist on retaining their arsenals and delivery systems, but actively seek to modernize them. The perennial threat of

nuclear holocaust undermines not only our collective security – and very existence –, but also the opportunities to widen the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

The opening for signature, a year ago, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is therefore cause for hope. President Michel Temer was the first to sign this historic instrument, reaffirming Brazil's strong commitment to abolishing all weapons of mass destruction.

Implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT remains unsatisfactory. Regrettably, existing commitments have not been fulfilled and are being called into question by the words and actions of some States. It is more urgent than ever to strengthen the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone.

The “Ban Treaty” is not only consistent with the NPT, but an active catalyst in helping encourage States to fulfill the nuclear disarmament obligations enshrined therein. We are confident that efforts to make universally accepted not only the Ban Treaty, but also the NPT and the CTBT, will bring us closer to our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this as in all issues having to do with nuclear energy, my delegation believes the IAEA has an essential role to play, given its Statute, its highly regarded verification capabilities and its truly multilateral nature.

Thank you, Madam President.