

## **Unofficial English translation:**

### **Statement of ABACC at the 63rd IAEA General Conference**

#### **Secretary of ABACC, Ms. Elena Maceiras- ABACC**

Let me first express, Madam President, the congratulations from ABACC for your election as President of the 63 Session of the IAEA General Conference.

ABACC expresses its sincere condolences to the wife, family, friends and the IAEA staff for the passing away of Director General, Yukiya Amano, who during his distinguished tenure visited ABACC twice.

Madam President,

In July 1991, the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil sign an Agreement for the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, creating a Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (SCCC) and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials -ABACC-, which until today is the only regional body of safeguards in the world.

The Bilateral Agreement constitutes a milestone in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and is a decisive tool for nuclear non-proliferation between these two countries with advanced and developing nuclear programs in our region. Region that, on the other hand, is the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated area of the world and a precursor to the others.

ABACC is the result of a unique and standing historical process of building confidence and the visible image of the development by Argentina and Brazil of a strategic alliance in the development and use nuclear energy for the exclusively peaceful purpose.

The mission of ABACC is to apply the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (SCCC), a robust independent system that, through cross inspections and technical control and evaluation measures, verifies that nuclear materials are not diverted to the manufacture of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive device.

Throughout these 27 years, ABACC has fulfilled its mission with solid technical credibility, highlighting on this occasion that in 2018 ABACC draw positive conclusions on the fulfillment of the commitments of peaceful use of nuclear energy in Argentina and Brazil.

Currently, ABACC performs almost daily inspection missions in Argentina and Brazil. In 2018, 103 inspections were carried out at nuclear facilities and 55 visits to verify the

design information of these plants, which totalized an inspection effort of 970 inspectors - days.

Madam President, our inspector cadre deserves special mention. It is constituted from proposals to ABACC of both countries with an adequate profile for their mission. They are trained by ABACC in order to maintain and increase their level of excellence. This technical competence of our human capital is complemented by the acquisition and use of the latest technology for safeguards.

Other notes to be highlighted are the independence of ABACC with respect to both “founding” countries in terms of the implementation of its verification activities and the continued political commitment and technical and economic support provided by them, which it has been an important factor for the success of ABACC.

Madam President,

On December 1991, just five months after the creation of ABACC, Argentina, Brazil, ABACC and the IAEA signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement, the Quadripartite Agreement that entered into force in March 1994. According to this new agreement, the four parties set out to apply IAEA safeguards to all nuclear material in all nuclear activities carried out under the responsibility of both countries with the sole purpose of ensuring that such materials are not diverted to nuclear weapons or nuclear other explosive devices.

The Quadripartite Agreement contains well-defined provisions regarding cooperation and coordination between the IAEA and ABACC, primarily providing for the coordination of the implementation of our respective safeguards to the nuclear activities of both countries in such a way to minimize the duplication of activities and, at the same time, to obtain independent conclusions.

In this context, joint inspection procedures and joint verification activities between the IAEA and ABACC have been developed and implemented. This approach together with the joint use of equipment of containment and surveillance and other technologies, has resulted in a significant optimization of resources and greater efficiency in tasks. We hope to deepen that path.

In the field of technical cooperation with the IAEA and both countries, in 2018 the activities of implementation of the ABACC-Cristallini Method for the sampling of UF<sub>6</sub> in conversion and enrichment plants continued. I am pleased to report that this method, which is a clear contribution of ABACC to a safe and effective safeguards technique, with innumerable advantages over the traditional method, is the basis of a Standard recently published by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM). ABACC, together with the countries,

we are collaborating in conducting tests in commercial enrichment facilities for its validation and use by the IAEA.

Another important contribution of ABACC in these 25 years has been the development of an ABACC-IAEA joint auditing system for the accounting systems of nuclear materials in Argentina and Brazil. ABACC faced its modernization as a priority and presented in 2018 its conceptual project to the IAEA with functionalities very useful for auditing in the field. We hope to begin its implementation as soon as the IAEA finishes the necessary tests.

Madam President,

On the 25th Anniversary of the Quadripartite Safeguards Agreement, we want to highlight the good results obtained in the coordination of activities between the IAEA and ABACC, which reflects the high level of understanding and cooperation achieved by both organizations.

ABACC is strongly committed to continue promoting mechanisms and means through which IAEA safeguards can make full use of the findings and conclusions of this regional mechanism, as provided by the Quadripartite Safeguards Agreement.

Madam President,

Argentina and Brazil's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy is clear and defined and, at the same time, recognizes the sovereign right of both countries to develop and use nuclear technology for the benefit of their peoples.

At present, the continuous growth and advancement of the nuclear plans of the two countries, represents for ABACC a new opportunity in the not too distant future, similar to the one we faced successfully in the beginning, when we imagine novel approaches and successfully lead mechanisms of verification to the sensitive facilities of both countries. We are prepared to develop new concepts, procedures and safeguards approaches appropriate to new nuclear facilities and activities.

I conclude, Madam President, with our message to this General Conference that ABACC is the corollary of establishing a deep and lasting relationship based on the mutual trust of Argentina and Brazil. And it is a confirmation that cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect between countries contribute decisively to regional and international security. We hope that the experience of this unique model in the world will inspire other regions.

Thank you.