

**DISCURSO DO MINISTRO DE MINAS E ENERGIA, BENTO
ALBUQUERQUE, POR OCASIÃO DO DEBATE GERAL DA 65ª
CONFERÊNCIA GERAL DA AIEA**

Vienna, 20/09/2021

MISTER PRESIDENT,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS A PLEASURE TO RETURN TO VIENNA AND REAFFIRM THE BRAZILIAN COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR POWER AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY TO ENSURE BOTH ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON FUTURE.

NUCLEAR POWER WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE BRAZILIAN PATH OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH. OUR LONG-TERM ENERGY PLANNING FORESEES A FOUR-FOLD EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR GENERATION IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

THE CONCLUSION OF OUR THIRD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (ANGRA-3), WHICH WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY 2026, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRAZILIAN MULTIPURPOSE REACTOR ARE AMONG OUR PRIORITIES.

AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, THE MOST RELEVANT CHALLENGES TO NEW NUCLEAR POWER CAPACITY IN BRAZIL ARE RELATED TO SCALE & COMPLEXITY OF PROJECTS AND TO SECURITY & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

THE SMALL MODULAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGY STANDS AS A PROMISING OPTION FOR NEW PROJECTS.

BRAZIL IS WILLING TO ACQUIRE EXPERTISE ON SMRs, THROUGH COOPERATION WITH DIFFERENT PARTNERS. IN THIS REGARD, WE HIGHLIGHT THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE BRAZILIAN ENERGY

RESEARCH OFFICE AND THE IAEA FOR THE ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL FOR SMRs IN BRAZIL.

WE ARE ALSO IMPROVING OUR REGULATORY GOVERNANCE, WITH THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE AGENCY ON THIS PROCESS.

ANOTHER GOOD NEWS IS THAT BRAZIL IS MOVING FORWARD TO ADHERE TO THE CONVENTION ON SUPPLEMENTARY COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE, STRESSING OUR COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY. WE HAVE JUST SENT IT TO CONGRESS AND EXPECT IT WILL BE RATIFIED SOON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LAST JULY, WE HAD THE HONOR TO RECEIVE DIRECTOR-GENERAL RAFAEL GROSSI IN BRAZIL. HE WAS ABLE TO VISIT IN DETAIL THE MOST IMPORTANT FACILITIES OF THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

HE ALSO JOINED THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL AND MYSELF, IN RIO DE JANEIRO, TO CELEBRATE THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE AGENCY FOR ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

ABACC IS A REFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT REGIME. IT IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF SAFEGUARDS, ACCORDING TO THE HIGHEST TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND TRANSPARENCY.

BRAZIL IS COMMITTED TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING ABACC, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE AGENCY.

MR PRESIDENT,

BRAZIL COMMENDS THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE IAEA IN SUPPORT OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME, PARTICULARLY AS IT SEEKS TO FULFIL ITS VERIFICATION AND MONITORING MANDATE IN AREAS WITH DESTABILIZING POTENTIAL.

WE ALSO APPLAUD THE REMARKABLE DEMOCRATIZATION OF ACCESS TO PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PROMOTED BY THE AGENCY IN RECENT YEARS.

AND WE SEE, WITH GREAT SATISFACTION, ITS GROWING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY PLAYS IN THE DECARBONISATION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

BRAZIL IS COMMITTED TO THIS GOAL. WE HAVE RECENTLY JOINED THE “NICE FUTURE INITIATIVE”, UNDER THE CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL. AND WE ARE READY TO COLLABORATE IN THE RUN UP TO COP-26.

WE PRAISE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE WITH THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. OUR NATIONAL COMPANY – ELETRONUCLEAR – WILL BE FULLY ENGAGED.

MR PRESIDENT,

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

BRAZIL TOOK NOTE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES ON SUBMARINES WITH NUCLEAR PROPULSION. COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS ALLOW FOR THE USE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS IN SUCH NON-PROSCRIBED ACTIVITY.

TO FINALIZE, MR PRESIDENT, DESPITE THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, REST ASSURED THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS

COMMITTED TO ENSURING SAFETY, TRANSPARENCY AND
SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NUCLEAR SECTOR.

THANK YOU