

IAEA 59th GENERAL CONFERENCE

VIENA, Sep., 2015.

Odilon Marcuzzo do Canto, Ph.D.

Secretary- ABACC

Mister President, distinguished delegates, representatives of guest organizations, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. President, please, receive my congratulations for your designation to lead this General Conference, as well as my wishes for the success of such mandate.

First of all, I want to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency for honoring the ABACC with the invitation to participate in this 59th General Conference.

The ABACC considers this occasion a very special one, because it is the opportunity to tell to the international nuclear community some facts and undertakings which, in ABACC's judgment, are important, and to reaffirm the determination and commitment to comply with its institutional mission as the Brazilian-Argentine agency managing the Common System for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials.

In complying with such mission —whose main mandate involves safeguarding the nuclear facilities and all the nuclear materials in Brazil and Argentina— and with the feeling of fulfillment of our duty, once more we are pleased to guarantee, before the international community that, during the year of 2014, all of the nuclear materials and other elements under safeguards in both Brazil and Argentina were used exclusively for peaceful purposes and were recorded appropriately. ABACC performed 62 inspections in Argentine

ABACC – 59th Gen. Conf. 2015

facilities and 56 in Brazilian facilities, which demanded a total availability of 1,070 inspectors-day. After completion of its tasks in this period, the ABACC did not find any signs of non-compliance with the commitments made by both countries.

Mr. President,

History has demonstrated that, undoubtedly, the best way to guarantee security and progress for human kind is promoting understanding and co-operation among nations. Brazil and Argentina are proud of their history built on the basis of common understanding, in which consensus has been far more outstanding than eventual punctual disputes.

The Bilateral Agreement for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy signed on July 18, 1991, definitively and clearly sealed the commitment of both countries for the exclusively peaceful uses of all nuclear material and installations submitted to their jurisdiction or control.

Today, this represents a model reference of the long process of economic, political, technological and cultural integration of Argentina and Brazil and it is a clear demonstration of the political desire of both countries to provide total transparency in their nuclear programs.

It provides a constructive framework for collaboration in policies of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and encourages the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Along these almost twenty five years, to be completed next year, ABACC has been building a very robust trajectory of technical excellence throughout institutional policies aimed to achieve a very high level of qualification of its staff and team of inspectors.

The ABACC understands that the permanent training of the officials and inspectors is a guarantee that allows it to keep up in the “state of the art”, always tuned with news scientific and technological developments that could provide important innovations, possible to be incorporated into the safeguard processes.

Prove of this is the development of a new method for uranium hexafluoride sampling in enrichment plants, named the ABACC-CRISTALLINI Method, honoring the late Argentinean chemistry and ABACC's technician, Osvaldo Cristallini, the man behind the idea. This innovation, entirely developed by ABACC's technical staff, brings several benefits when compared with the traditional method. The sampling is easier and less intrusive, saving time. It presents environmental benefits producing less waste and it is safer for handling and transportation, while keeping the accuracy of results as the traditional method. ABACC is now working in cooperation with laboratories of Argentina, Brazil, IAEA and DoE/USA, toward the validation of the method. The inter-comparison results obtained from different laboratories will be the basis of the validation process to confirm that the new method can be used for routine safeguards application at the enrichment plants.

Technical cooperation with international partners with similar objectives has been of fundamental importance for ABACC. It is worth mentioning the technical cooperation with the European Community, through the Joint Research Center – ISPRA, Italy, in the development of advanced technologies, with potential use in the application of safeguards. The two cooperation projects in the area of equipment in which important progress has been made during the

year of 2014, were the 3D Laser System Project and the Ultrasonic Seals Project.

ABACC's technical cooperation programs with several international partners are always developed in an environment of mutual respect, technical excellence and with a high level of professional skills. To all these important partners I would like to present ABACC's respect and gratitude and the firm desire to continue these profitable relationships.

Mr. PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES,

Next year ABACC is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. During these twenty five years, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Argentine-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials managed to construct a mature relationship, allowing both agencies to work in harmony and with great objectivity. The joint work by the ABACC and the IAEA allowed creating an atmosphere of mutual confidence with excellent results.

The coordination of activities has been considered as a permanent objective by both agencies. This is the fact that gives way to the necessary conditions for an effective cost management, for avoiding the duplication of efforts and for attaining efficiency and effectiveness in the safeguards activities. The good results obtained in our joint safeguards activities and procedures with regard to unannounced inspections and to sharing the use of safeguards equipment reflect the high level of understanding and co-operation attained by both institutions. The partnership that ABACC maintains with the IAEA is, in our understanding, fundamental, for both the

agencies to comply with their institutional objectives with efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. President,

According to World Nuclear Society, nuclear power capacity worldwide is increasing steadily, with over 60 reactors under construction in 15 countries. A recent IAEA study shows that the world's nuclear power generating capacity is projected to continue to grow by 2030. Fairly realistic projections suggest a scenario involving the construction of new nuclear power plants all over the world. Undoubtedly, this projection implies important challenges in the fields of safeguards and non proliferation and a significant burden to the already heavy duties of the IAEA.

I have repeatedly mentioned in this forum that a way to face the future challenges would be promoting the creation and the strengthening of independent and reliable regional systems that could be applied in coordination with the IAEA, thus optimizing the available resources. The success attained with the experience of EURATOM and the almost 25 years of ABACC's performance in the application of safeguards as a bi-national agency, can be a source of orientation.

It is a fact that the regional geopolitical characteristics and cultural differences do not allow for a direct application of the model; however, the central idea of developing regional agencies making use of the so called, "*neighbor-to-neighbor control*" concept, is a possibility that worthwhile to try.

I would like to conclude my statement re-affirming ABACC's commitment with efficiency and effectiveness in the application of the safeguards procedures in Brazil and Argentina, in a transparent manner, while maintaining the required confidentiality of the information and in accordance with the framework defined by the Quadripartite Agreement.

Please, accept, Mr. President, our wishes for a Conference filled with success, along with our appreciation for the opportunity of delivering this presentation.

THANK YOU ALL.