

**Statement of the Secretary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control
of Nuclear Materials, Dr. Marco Marzo, on the 61st General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, September 18th, 2017**

Madam President, Excellences, ladies and gentleman.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your election as President of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and wishing you all the success on this endeavor.

I would like also to congratulate Mr. Yukiya Amano for his re-appointment to another term as Director General of the IAEA.

The ABACC – Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials – was created by the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy – the Bilateral Agreement. This Agreement was signed on 18 July 1991, and entered into force on 12 of December of the same year.

The Bilateral Agreement demonstrates the clear and defined commitment of Argentina and Brazil in relation to the exclusive peaceful use of all nuclear materials and facilities under their jurisdiction, and, at same time, recognizes the sovereign right of each country of use nuclear technology for the economic and social development of their people.

The mission of ABACC is to manage and apply the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, in order to verify that all nuclear material in all nuclear activities are not diverted for the fabrication of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive device.

Ms. President, the ABACC has developed along its history a solid technical and administrative structure, built a team of about one hundred highly qualified inspectors to perform inspections in both countries and counts with laboratories, technology and equipment for measurements of nuclear materials in both countries. I would like to emphasize that the success of ABACC has been possible due to the continued political, economical and technical support of both countries, in particular of their National Authorities, the Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear of Argentina (ARN), and the Comissão Nacional de Energia Nuclear of Brazil (CNEN).

In 2016, year of its 25th anniversary, the ABACC performed 111 inspections in the nuclear facilities of both countries, and continued guarantying the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear activities in Argentina and Brazil drawing independent and sound based conclusions.

Madam President, the ABACC, Argentina, Brazil and the IAEA signed on 13 of December 1991 the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards, the so-called Quadripartite Agreement. This Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement entered into force in March 1994. The IAEA applies safeguards to all nuclear material in all nuclear activities performed under jurisdiction of the two countries with the exclusive aim to assure that these materials are not diverted to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Quadripartite Agreement has well defined provisions on the coordination of activities between the IAEA and ABACC. The two agencies shall cooperate and minimize the duplication of activities, and at same time, draw independent conclusions. The coordination of activities between the two agencies occurs under this framework.

Madam President, the good results obtained on the coordination of activities between the two agencies, in particular on joint inspection procedures and common use of equipment, reflect the high level of understanding and cooperation reached in both organizations, and contribute to a significant optimization of their resources. However, ABACC believes that there is room for increase the efficiency in the safeguards implementation by both agencies, without compromising the effectiveness and the independent conclusion of each one. In this respect, it is fundamental that the ABACC's activities, and in particular, ABACC's conclusions, as an independent regional agency, are fully taken into consideration by the IAEA in the implementation of its safeguards under the Quadripartite Agreement.

Madam President, the ABACC is the only bilateral agency for safeguards application in the World. This is the corollary of the establishment of mutual confidence between Argentina and Brazil, and it is an evidence that the cooperation, the dialogue and mutual respect among the countries can contribute decisively to the regional and international security.

Thank you.