



BRAZIL

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Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee. My delegation reaffirms its full confidence in your leadership. Brazil associates itself with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition and by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Mr. Chairman,

The very first GA Resolution sought the elimination of nuclear weapons. Then, as now, the existence of weapons of mass destruction with their catastrophic and indiscriminate effects, were seen as sitting ill with the principles of the UN Charter. Seventy years on, thousands of nuclear weapons fill the arsenals of several countries. They remain a constant threat to life on the planet.

Recently, this unacceptable situation has once more been highlighted. The Conferences on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna between 2013 and 2014 have shed new light on the legal gap that needs to be filled for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. My country, Brazil, supports the Humanitarian Pledge, in line with its longstanding position that progress in nuclear disarmament is urgent and necessary.

The nuclear and non-proliferation regime, of which the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone, is under growing strain, compounded by the failure of the 2015 NPT Review

Conference to adopt an outcome document. States that possess nuclear weapons or are members of nuclear alliances seem intent on relying on these weapons indefinitely. This undermines the credibility of the NPT and of agreements struck at previous conferences.

Mr Chairman,

Brazil is firmly committed to the objective of nuclear non-proliferation. In our view, the key to the sustainability of the NPT regime lies in reducing motivations and incentives to proliferate. To focus solely on non-proliferation, as if this could be detached from progress in nuclear disarmament, is not only unbalanced, but ineffective.

The correct answer to such challenges is the urgent start of negotiations on nuclear disarmament, as mandated by Article VI of the NPT. This would also start to give concrete expression to the unequivocal commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons, made by nuclear weapon States at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

The lasting stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament is regrettable. We hail the work of the group of 25 experts convened by the Secretary General to make recommendations on aspects of a treaty on fissile materials and hope its conclusions will help the CD to approve a programme of work that contemplates its four core issues. Failing this, however, negotiations on nuclear disarmament can and should be taken to other multilateral fora, such as the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil supports the IAEA's efforts to promote more efficient and effective safeguards, in strict accordance with the relevant legal instruments entered into by Member States with the Agency. The General Conference of the IAEA, both in 2014 and again this year, have reiterated important assurances to guide the implementation of the so-called "State-level Concept" (SLC). We look forward to seeing how the Secretariat will coordinate with Member States in developing and implementing individual "State-level approaches".

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil has always maintained that there is no alternative to a diplomatic, negotiated solution to the issues related to Iran's nuclear program. The "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" agreed last July by the P5+1/EU and Iran was a vindication for diplomacy. Brazil once again commends the parties for their efforts. The political will demonstrated by all parties throughout the negotiations will now be critical for the implementation of the agreement.

We also believe the JCPOA may have a positive impact on the Middle East broader security environment. Alongside the successful treatment of the Syrian chemical portfolio, it provides much needed momentum for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the region.

The failure of States Parties to reach an agreement on this matter and to comply with the commitments agreed to in the 2010 RevCon is unfortunate. This issue cannot be left in a limbo. The 1995 Resolution on the Middle East remains valid and cannot be dissociated from the Treaty.

Brazil urges all stakeholders to resume consultations and intensify efforts towards fulfilling the commitments made.

Mr. Chairman,

The destruction of chemical weapons declared by Syria is a welcome development that has, however, been overshadowed by the repeated use of chemical substances, such as chlorine, as a weapon in the Middle East. Regardless of who their perpetrators may be, such actions are deplorable and a matter of serious concern, that warrant a unified position by the international community in addressing the issue.

The OPCW is exemplary in reflecting the continuous efforts by the international community to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction. The positive achievements of the chemical weapons regime are yet to be attained with respect to other classes of WMDs. In the case of the Biological Weapons Convention, Brazil favours the resumption of negotiations on an effective and legally binding verification regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The weaponization of outer space is incompatible with the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Brazil is committed to the enhancement of the multilateral legal framework concerning the preservation of a peaceful, safe and secure environment in outer space, and, in 2014, coauthored Resolution 69/32 ("No first placement of weapons in outer space").

While political commitments and voluntary arrangements are welcome, they cannot be a substitute for legally binding measures imposing firm and long-term obligations on all States. In this context, the revised proposal on a treaty on the prohibition on the placement of weapons in outer space (PPWT) presented by Russia and China represents a positive development with a view to starting negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil favours the strengthening of multilateral norms and principles applicable to the conduct of States in the field of information and telecommunications technologies (ICTs) in the context of international security. This, however, cannot take place at the expense of the free flow of information and the respect for human rights, in particular the right to privacy.

International law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations must guide State behavior in their uses of ICTs. Confidence-building measures and increased international assistance and cooperation constitute important steps to achieve an open, secure, peaceful and accessible ICT environment.

After four sessions of comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views on developments in this field, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security established by resolution 68/243 adopted a consensus report, which advanced the discussion on important aspects related to activities in cyberspace. Brazil was honoured to chair the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The Arms Trade Treaty has marked a groundbreaking moment for the international community. Brazil signed the ATT on the very first day it was opened for signature. Although a few changes in internal legislation will be necessary after ratification, Brazil already adopts a national export control system that complies, to a large extent, with ATT obligations.

We welcome the outcomes of the First Conference of States Parties. The ATT's universalization remains one of the greatest priorities. The accession of countries, especially the major arms exporting States, is important to avoid the continuing negative effects of unregulated international arms trade.

The success of the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations shows how the General Assembly, with its universal membership and rules of procedure, can take the leading role in unlocking processes otherwise seen as intractable.

With this in mind, Brazil supports proposals for an enhanced role of this Committee in pushing forward nuclear disarmament negotiations, particularly through the establishment of an Open Ended Working Group to develop effective measures related to nuclear disarmament. This group should work under General Assembly standard rules of procedure and have as its ultimate objective the adoption of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons with agreed timeframes for the transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Mr Chairman,

A few weeks ago, in the General Assembly Hall, His Holiness Pope Francis stated (I quote) "an ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction - and possibly the destruction of all mankind - are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as 'nations united by fear and distrust'" (end of quotation).

The resounding ovation that followed this phrase was telling. It showed that, irrespective of religious affiliation, Pope Francis had rightly interpreted the general will of UN member States. Let us take action towards a world without nuclear weapons - and take it now.

Thank you.