

# BRAZIL

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

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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(Check against delivery)

The strengthened review system has led to the adoption of important commitments, most notably the thirteen practical steps towards nuclear disarmament, in 2000, and the adoption of the 2010 Action Plan. However, implementation of these commitments has been poor, at best, including with regard to the failure to convene the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Notwithstanding unilateral and bilateral arsenal reductions and increased coordination among the nuclear weapons States, which we welcome, we are concerned by a lack of real irreversible progress on disarmament. Attempts to reinforce commitments on non-proliferation without previous concrete progress on nuclear disarmament can only further erode the NPT edifice.

Arsenal reductions, especially when carried out in the context of modernization programmes and vertical proliferation, do not equal nuclear disarmament. On the contrary, in recent years, all information available on nuclear weapons States plans for their nuclear weapons programmes signal that there is no intention to get rid of these weapons in the foreseeable future. Such actions run counter to the commitment of the five nuclear weapon States under Article VI of the NPT to pursue negotiations in good faith on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control which the ICJ has emphasized as a legal obligation in its landmark 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.

While we acknowledge the improved dialogue between the nuclear weapons States and the increased, albeit insufficient, transparency with regards to their nuclear arsenals, it is important to stress that neither dialogue nor transparency measures are ends in themselves, but means to fulfill concrete disarmament objectives. Improved transparency and dialogue should lead to negotiations, otherwise they will become irrelevant.

Madam President,

It is clear that the so-called "step-by-step" approach advocated by nuclear weapons States has failed to deliver on initial expectations. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was finalized almost twenty years ago and is not yet in force. The beginning of negotiations on a fissile material treaty has been stalled for over a decade.

The international community finds itself in a stalemate akin to Zeno's paradox. The ancient Greek philosopher claimed that movement was impossible, because before walking a certain distance, first one would have to walk half that distance, and before that, a quarter, and so on indefinitely. To achieve progress in nuclear disarmament within the "step-by-step" approach, conversely, the international community has been told that, before taking any first step, we should take half the first step, and before that, half of half a step, and so on. We know for a fact, however, that movement is possible. We know that, if there is political will, real and meaningful progress in nuclear disarmament is also possible. It is indeed necessary.

Madam President,

The reemergence of the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament has brought renewed energy to the debate on nuclear weapons, highlighting the catastrophic consequences that would ensue from the use, either intentional or by accident, of such weapons and their incompatibility with international humanitarian law. It has also helped us to reflect further on the absurdity of advocating nuclear nonproliferation while at the same time continuously praising nuclear weapons as indispensable to guarantee one's security, as well as on the perversity of diverting huge amounts of money and resources to the maintenance and modernization of nuclear arsenals.

As the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons have emphasized, nuclear weapons have long-lasting, devastating, indiscriminate effects, affecting civilians foremost. Their impacts on human health and the environment last generations and there is no country or organization capable of responding to the humanitarian disaster ensuing from a nuclear detonation. The elimination of nuclear weapons is, therefore, not only a legal obligation, but also an ethical imperative.

Beyond the fears instilled by the possibility of a detonation, the mere existence of nuclear weapons has a huge impact on peoples' lives. The financial resources diverted to the maintenance and modernization of nuclear arsenals could, if invested elsewhere, provide significant betterment of living conditions worldwide. Even amidst a fragile economic situation and in a context of dwindling resources to alleviate poverty and promote development, it is estimated that the nuclear weapon States spend around 100 billion dollars a year to maintain their arsenals. This is a disturbing sign of how global priorities are being set, and shows that there is also a socioeconomic imperative for nuclear disarmament.

Furthermore, there is also the security imperative. The continued existence of nuclear weapons and the threat to humankind they represent increase tensions in all regions of the world, foster suspicion and hinder cooperation between States. Nuclear weapons and doctrines of nuclear deterrence make the world more dangerous and more unstable, unintendedly inviting proliferation, for every State in the world may likewise argue its security can only be assured by the possession of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is thus the only credible way to consolidate the nonproliferation regime.

Brazil believes that the positive momentum stemming from the Oslo, Nagasaki and Vienna Conferences will have an impact on nuclear disarmament both at this Conference and in multilateral fora dealing with disarmament.

There is a need to see light at the end of the tunnel. A timeframe, however flexible, will be a significant contribution to upholding the credibility of the NPT regime. Brazil believes a time horizon for nuclear disarmament must eventually take the form of a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons. While this should be a priority, we do not discard other options that are currently being brought to the table. Recently, in the context of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impacts, we



With regard to a fissile material treaty, it is our view that, in order for such an instrument to be meaningful, it must deal in one way or another with the issue of current stockpiles. As we all know, there is sufficient nuclear material to continue the production of nuclear weapons for centuries to come, which is hardly a good prospect in terms of nuclear disarmament. In this sense, we welcome the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the matter and hope the Group's final report may contribute to finally unlock the negotiations of an FMT.

The reasons for the stalemate at the CD are political and therefore cannot be ascribed to institutional or procedural issues. In order to better reflect current international realities, however, Brazil believes the CD calls for an update in terms

serve as a source of inspiration for our partners in the Middle East and elsewhere that strive for the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons.

It is essential that the nuclear weapons States be fully committed to the integrity of nuclear-weapon-free zones. We therefore urge those States to withdraw, with immediate effect, any reservations or interpretative declarations to the relevant protocols to treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Madam President,

In order to preserve the credibility of the NPT's Review Process, this Conference has a special responsibility regarding the disarmament pillar. Merely rolling over the commitments already agreed to, and so poorly implemented, is not an option. The Conference must deepen the current commitments, propose new concrete ones and demand from the nuclear weapons States how and when they will be met. A tentative roadmap towards nuclear disarmament, whereby the NPT States would outline their views on a timeframe for nuclear disarmament, could provide an important benchmark for future progress and for the negotiations on a comprehensive convention to completely eliminate nuclear weapons.

Madam President,

Non-proliferation has undoubtedly been the most successful of the three pillars of the NPT. With one exception, none of the 186 States that have become parties to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States has since built or acquired a nuclear weapon or a nuclear explosive device. For four years after the Treaty's entry into force, the non-nuclear-weapon States have been complying with their obligations under the Treaty and keeping their end of the fundamental bargain at its core, in stark contrast to the implementation of the disarmament commitments under Article VI by the nuclear



Madam President,

For Brazil, no matter how tight one may desire to render the verification of compliance with non-proliferation obligations, the key to upholding the integrity



This language leaves no doubt that the verification standard pursuant to Article III

Madam President,

Building on an initiative by the IAEA Deputy Director-General for Technical Cooperation, Brazil has increased its cooperation in the nuclear field with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, in particular Angola and Mozambique,

number of activities has been undertaken so far, not only in the field together with Member States but also in respect of the review of the Agency's safety standards concerning the design and operation of nuclear power plants (NPPs), protection of NPPs against severe accidents, and emergency preparedness and response.

Brazil also wishes to express its satisfaction with the results of the Diplomatic Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), which took place last February under the able leadership of Argentina. In line with other efforts being undertaken to improve nuclear safety at the national, regional and global levels, the Vienna Declaration adopted at the Diplomatic Conference represents a significant building block in reinforcing the CNS peer review mechanism and establishing principles to guide Contracting Parties, as

