



BRAZIL NATIONAL STATEMENT

Mr. Othon Luiz Pinheiro da Silva, CEO of Eletronuclear

*International Ministerial Conference on
Nuclear Power in the 21st Century
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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Brazilian Government, I am honored to address the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century. At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of the Russian Federation and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" for preparing the event, in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Mr. President,

Since the tragic accident in Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant two years ago, we have witnessed a reevaluation of the role of nuclear energy. Having occurred in the context of the so-called "nuclear renaissance", the event has had a deep impact on the public perception of nuclear energy worldwide and consequently a deep internal analysis in the nuclear industry and regulatory agencies that certainly will lead to improvements in the safety of power plants. The IAEA, for its part, will continue to foster safety standards in nuclear facilities worldwide, which are implemented by its Member States.

Nuclear power shall continue to be an alternative for many nations to meet their energy needs. In that sense, the Fukushima accident reinforced the imperative for enhancing nuclear safety and reassessing national standards. We are pleased to note that measures to assess and

improve, where necessary, the levels of nuclear safety in facilities across the world continue being thoroughly implemented by IAEA Member States.

Mr. President,

Besides being a founding member of the IAEA, Brazil rigorously observes the Agency's guidelines and is a party to all conventions on nuclear safety and security. My country also had the honor of presiding over and coordinating the process which led to the successful conclusion of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, in June 2011.

In light of the importance it attaches to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Brazil pays special attention to the future role of this source of energy. In addition to possessing the sixth world largest Uranium ore reserve, my country is among a select group of States that master the complete nuclear fuel cycle. Around 3% of Brazilian electricity is provided by two nuclear power plants, with a third one under construction, due to start operation in 2018.

Consideration has been given to increasing nuclear energy participation in our energy mix, especially in the context of sustainable economic growth, in order to continue to provide electrical energy to the Brazilian grid in a safe, environmentally sound and cost-effective way. This challenge demands careful and appropriate site selection, choice of adequate technology, system-design improvement, high quality in construction, professional standards in operation and maintenance, as well as supervision by an independent regulatory agency.

Mr. President,

My country is fully engaged in international efforts to enhance nuclear safety. Among the latest steps taken by Brazil to implement the set of recommendations foreseen in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, I am glad to inform that Eletronuclear - the operator of Brazilian nuclear power plants - has concluded, within the framework of the "Eletrobras-Eletronuclear Response Plan to the Fukushima Accident", a comprehensive safety evaluation of our existent power plants, including provision for heat removal of spent fuel pools by natural circulation, reevaluation of potential slope instability or landslides around nuclear power plant site and of possible flooding due to external events. Such Response Plan

comprises 56 studies and projects related to nuclear safety, amounting to some US\$ 250 million dollars to be spent from 2011 to 2015. The Plan is reviewed every six months, taking into account the requirements set out by the National Nuclear Energy Commission as well as new international initiatives and recommendations. Furthermore, Eletronuclear has undertaken actions on the reinforcement of cooling capabilities of reactors and spent fuel pools, as well as the mitigation of radiological consequences.

The Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission has also developed new regulations on the evaluation and approval of sites for nuclear power plants, taking into account the occurrence of extreme external events. As part of a periodic exercise program, it held last October a Nuclear Emergency Response Partial Exercise aimed at testing the effectiveness of the Nuclear Power Plant External Emergency Plan's communications network. In the course of such exercise, the functioning of several institutions within the Brazilian system of nuclear emergency, preparedness and response was assessed. In September 2013, a Comprehensive Exercise is expected to take place, involving nearly 1,500 people from several institutions participating in the national emergency response system.

Mr. President,

Nuclear safety and security are essential in creating a favorable environment regarding the development of nuclear energy applications for the benefit of humankind. Our efforts must be aimed at ensuring that nuclear energy will always be used in a safe and secure manner, for peaceful ends and for the benefit of all. Apart from being an important contribution to meet energy needs, nuclear energy shall continue to have significant applications in fields such as medicine, agriculture, industry and scientific research. Legitimate concerns related to the possibility of malicious acts against nuclear facilities or involving nuclear or radiological material cannot, however, be invoked to preclude the legitimate right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, nor to prevent international cooperation for peaceful ends.

Brazil attaches high importance to technical cooperation and other promotional activities implemented by the IAEA. We would therefore like to reaffirm our support for the constant

strengthening and steady implementation of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program, due to its relevance in fostering social and economic development.

Brazil remains one of the ten countries that offer the largest number of experts and lecturers for the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program. In addition to that, we are also among the ten major recipients of fellowships and scientific visitors for training in Brazilian institutions. In 2012, Brazil received over 100 beneficiaries of fellowships and scientific visitors, whereas 26 IAEA events took place in the country, with the attendance of around 200 foreign and Brazilian researchers.

Mr. President,

Discussions about the role of nuclear energy in the 21st century should not be dissociated from our broader efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. In this regard, let me take this opportunity to reaffirm Brazil's unwavering commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Furthermore, Brazil's commitment to the peaceful and safe uses of nuclear energy is irreversible and clearly expressed in our Federal Constitution. More than forty years after the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and more than twenty years after the end of the Cold War, it is not admissible that thousands of nuclear weapons not only continue to exist, but undergo unceasing modernization, as part of military doctrines, and are kept at unreduced levels of operational readiness. Brazil expresses its concern over persistent attempts to justify the possession of nuclear weapons, be it to sustain minimum security levels or to ensure an alleged undiminished security or to provide a hypothetical strategic stability. Such concepts are as outdated as the nuclear weapons themselves.

Nuclear weapons continue to be the sole anthropogenic factor that can instantly destroy humanity and Brazil is fully aware that achieving a world free of such weapons cannot be done overnight. What we need however is a political horizon, with clear benchmarks and datelines to achieve this goal.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude by recalling two recent achievements that reinforce the important link between sustainable development and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

First, I wish to reiterate Brazil's gratitude to Director General Amano for his decision to further strengthen cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization with a view to improving food security, as outlined in his report on "Strengthening the Agency's Activities related to Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications". Not only does this laudable initiative help to address the dire problem of food insecurity, but it also strengthens synergies within the UN system to that end.

Last, but not least, Brazil also appreciated the Agency's active participation at the "United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro one year ago. Substantive discussions involving the Agency took place on the role nuclear technology can play in the promotion of sustainable development, in areas such as low-carbon electricity generation, food security, water management and oceans.

I thank you.