PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF BRAZIL TO THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE 8TH
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Statement by the Head of the Delegation of Brazil,
Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares
New York, May 7, 2009

Cluster II

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil shares the concerns of the international community about cases of nuclear
proliferation, both within and outside the Treaty, and about the risk that weapons of mass
destruction and related technologies may fall into the hands of non-state actors. This risk
only strengthens the need to take action towards complete, verifiable and irreversible
nuclear disarmament. The need to contain proliferation, however, should not in any way
justify the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by any State, or hinder the inalienable
right of States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, under Article IV of the
Treaty.

On the other hand, the concern about proliferation outside the Treaty is also
legitimate. Brazil believes in this regard that universal adherence to the NPT is paramount
to the maintenance and enhancement of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The existing IAEA’s comprehensive safeguards mechanism provides credible
assurance of non-diversion of nuclear material from declared activities and Brazil defends
that all States Parties should bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements with
the Agency, as established in the NPT. However, when one listen to the debate on the issue
of proliferation inside the Treaty one may be led to think that the safeguards applied by the
AIEA are not effective. It must be said that there is not one single recorded instance in
which an enrichment facility under IAEA safeguards was used for proscribed purposes and
there is not one single case in which nuclear material has been illegally diverted from a
safeguarded enrichment plant.

Mr. Chairman,

The difficulties and challenges facing the international community in the
implementation of the NPT do not derive, as many of its critics suggest, of a supposedly
inadequacy of the Treaty to today’s global environment. It derives from the unbalance in
the implementation of all its obligations by the different actors. The international
community has a collective responsibility both to disarm and to prevent the proliferation of
nuclear weapons. We all have only to benefit from the strengthening of the non-
proliferation regime.

I thank you.