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Statement by

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(check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

Article IV of the NPT expressly recognizes “the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”. It also determines that States in a position to do so shall cooperate in the “development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.”

The IAEA’s statement on the General Debate last week underlined the great contributions that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy make to humankind, in areas such as medicine, public health, agriculture, food security, water resources management, sustainable energy and the environment. In this context, it is essential that all States be allowed to have access and make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is also key that the IAEA’s technical cooperation branch be awarded the adequate support and resources it requires. We welcome the fact that the Agency has decided to take an active part in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, including by providing inputs to the process of preparing for the next Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

In recent years, the international community has been engaging in different initiatives, both within the IAEA and in other frameworks, in the areas of nuclear safety and security. Brazil has actively participated in the IAEA Conferences and in the Nuclear Security Summits, and it develops and implements robust, effective and adequate legislation in these areas.

Brazil is fully committed to the safe and secure use of nuclear technology, as that is the only way that humanity can fully benefit from it. The strengthening of international commitments in these areas must serve the purpose of providing a stable environment which facilitates the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, by preventing risks and threats that may result from the inappropriate or non-authorized use of nuclear energy.

It is our view, however, that legitimate concerns with nuclear security and safety cannot be used as pretext for the imposition of constraints on the inalienable right of States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We must not forget, Mr. Chairman, that it is not civilian nuclear facilities or activities, but atomic bombs that pose the greatest risk to humanity. Today, as we know, all stockpiles of nuclear material for military use are exempt of multilateral control mechanisms. As a matter of fact, according to United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), 98% of the highly enriched uranium and 86% of the separated plutonium stockpiles worldwide are possessed by the nuclear weapon states.
These concerns have led Brazil to submit, along with fourteen other countries with a similar view, the Joint Statement to this year’s Nuclear Security Summit statement titled "In larger security: a comprehensive approach to nuclear security.” We understand that it is impossible to dissociate the quest for nuclear security, as is also the case for nuclear non-proliferation, from the effective implementation of disarmament commitments established in the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. A world that accepts nuclear weapons will always be insecure. It is essential to eliminate such weapons, which, because of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use, remain a permanent threat to humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil strongly believes that nuclear technology is an indispensable component of social, economic, and technological development of peoples around the world, in particular of those living in developing countries. This is, as already mentioned, the very rationale of Article IV of the NPT, which recognized the inalienable right of every State to the peaceful uses and development of nuclear energy. For the benefit of humankind, this right, which predates the NPT, must remain accordingly protected and enforced.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.