Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear technology, in its multifarious applications, has become a key motor of social and economic development of peoples around the world. The NPT, building on the mandate of the IAEA, recognizes, in its Article IV, the inalienable right of every State to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In fact, this sovereign right predates and is independent from the Treaty. What the NPT did was twofold: first, it asserted that nothing in Treaty should affect the exercise of this right; and second, it committed States Parties to facilitating and participating in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Article IV also pointed to the imperative that, in such exchanges, due consideration be given to the needs of non-nuclear weapon States, especially those in the developing areas of the world.

Mr. Chairman,
Over the last 60 years, the IAEA has played a pivotal role in the promotion of the peaceful applications of the atom. The uses of nuclear energy for human development have exponentially expanded, ranging from health, medicine and the production of radioisotopes, to the nuclear fuel cycle, power generation, industry, agriculture and environmental protection.

In order to fulfil this core statutory function, the IAEA’s activities, in particular its Technical Cooperation Programme, should have adequate support and sufficient, assured and predictable resources.

In recent years, nuclear technology’s role in fostering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has also gained recognition. This also goes for the importance of the SDGs, and the activities that the IAEA undertakes to help Member States to fulfil their national objectives in this regard. Most noteworthy was the decision, last year, by the IAEA Board of Governors, in its deliberations on the budget update, to place appropriate emphasis to the Agency’s activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States.

A concrete example to that effect is the ongoing Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories of the Agency -- the ReNuAL and ReNuAL-plus projects. Challenges faced both by developing and developed countries underpin the relevance of these projects, which include, inter alia, the construction of a new Insect Pest Control Laboratory (IPCL). The public health emergencies that took place in
the recent past, such as the Zika virus outbreak, only reinforced the public perception about the important contribution of nuclear techniques.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil pursues a national programme that encompasses several areas, including the full nuclear fuel cycle, and continues to promote international cooperation with several partners, including through the IAEA.

We proceed with our collaboration with Argentina on the construction of a Multipurpose Research Reactor, which will ensure Brazil’s self-sufficiency in the production of radioisotopes for human health, industry and agriculture, and will also bring about progress in other nuclear applications, such as research and materials testing.

Brazil is a staunch supporter of the Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), which has been bringing benefits to the region for over thirty years. The Regional Strategic Profile of ARCAL for 2016-2021 is enabling more efficient and targeted implementation of several projects that have been agreed upon under its framework.

Mr. Chairman,
Besides developing and implementing robust and effective national legislation, Brazil participates actively in different international initiatives to strengthen nuclear safety and security, including the Nuclear Security Summits and two IAEA Ministerial Conferences, the latest of which in December 2016.

Brazil is guided by the belief that international measures to strengthen nuclear safety and security, as well as export controls of sensitive technologies, must not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities.

It is atomic bombs and the associated materials that pose the greatest risk to humanity. And not civilian nuclear facilities or activities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

Today, as we all know, the vast majority of sensitive nuclear materials continue to be exempt from any multilateral verification or oversight mechanisms. Most of the high enriched uranium and separated plutonium is in the hands of a few nuclear-armed States.

Brazil and other like-minded States champion a comprehensive approach in the area of nuclear security. We are convinced that, to be consistent and ultimately effective, nuclear security must be articulated within the international community’s broader efforts to promote the inter-related goals of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the advancement of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
To conclude, Mr. Chairman, as we look towards the 2020 Review Conference, it is Brazil’s firm conviction that non-proliferation and other security concerns must not hinder the exercise of the right to peaceful nuclear uses in myriad activities for social and economic development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.