BRAZIL

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

Third session

Cluster 1 – Specific issue (Negative security assurances)

New York, 2 May 2014

Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

(check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

Pending the elimination of nuclear weapons, Brazil sees the celebration of a treaty that gives effect to the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear weapon States as a matter of priority. It is truly baffling that nuclear weapon States see such difficulty in making a legal and very simple commitment not to use these weapons against States that do not have them. While a positive development, political unilateral declarations from the nuclear weapon States – which, with one notable exception, are all conditional – are far from being enough.

A first step to show good faith from the nuclear weapon States in this matter would be, in line with Action 9 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, to, as appropriate: (i) conclude the pending signatures or ratifications, without reservations or interpretations, of all pending negative security assurances protocols to the treaties that establish nuclear-weapon-free zones; and (ii) withdraw the interpretative declarations to the protocols that have already been ratified.

As reminded by the Secretary-General of OPANAL on his statement in the General Debate of this Preparatory Committee Session, the non-nuclear weapon States have already given, under the NPT, legally binding assurances to all other States, including the nuclear weapon States. The adoption of a treaty on NSAs is, therefore, simply the reciprocation of that commitment by the nuclear weapon States.

Finally, we would like to recall that the General Assembly’s First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-I) recognized, nearly four decades ago, that "effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons could strengthen the security of those States and international peace and security." It is therefore in the interest of all States to conclude a legally binding treaty on this issue as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.