



**LXI UNGA - I Committee
General Debate**

**Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg,
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Madam Chairperson,

First of all I would like to express my satisfaction to see you, Ambassador Mona Juul, presiding over the First Committee. Rest assured of the full cooperation of the delegation of Brazil in the course of our deliberations.

As President Lula stated at the opening of this session of the General Assembly: "There is no more effective way than multilateralism to bring states together, to keep the peace, to protect human rights, to promote sustainable development and to build negotiated solutions to common problems".

Brazil is committed to multilateralism in the full gamut of international relations, not least in the area of peace and security. Multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter and established international law practices, provide the only sustainable method of addressing international security

issues. The need for effective collective measures in order to re-establish confidence and settle international disputes is ever more pressing at a time when regional tensions continue to escalate, conflicts continue to be a daily reality, and civilian populations continue to suffer mounting casualties.

It is both unfortunate and worrisome that today we observe a continuous erosion of multilateralism, and that recent events demonstrate an increasing tendency towards unilaterally imposed measures. Another disquieting trend is Security Council encroachment on General Assembly competences in issues related to international peace and security. Measures under Chapter VII of the Charter should not be used indiscriminately. Still another is non-fulfillment of commitments and obligations assumed under relevant international legally binding instruments, especially with respect to weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of Brazil fully concurs with the assessment that terrorism and prospects of further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are prominent among contemporary threats to international peace and security. One of the most terrifying possibilities is, indeed, that non-State actors might acquire and use such weapons. We must endeavour to prevent this scenario from ever happening, while acting strictly within accepted principles and norms of international law.

The threat of terrorism only adds to the urgency of nuclear disarmament, which must remain the highest priority in the field of weapons of mass destruction. In this area, as in any other, setting the example only strengthens one's argument. The only real guarantee against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is their total elimination.

In the wake of the lack of any substantive results by the VII Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) last year, much thought has been given to find ways forward. Nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT should realize that the impasse at the Review Conference was, to a large extent, due to the perception that there has not been any sign of real resolve to eliminate existing nuclear arsenals. The Treaty has been in force for nearly forty years; the cold war is now - thankfully - long gone, and yet the nuclear disarmament commitment the nuclear weapon States Parties undertook in Article VI remains to be implemented.

In this respect, we lend our full support to the positions expressed earlier today by the Head of the Egyptian Delegation on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC), and reiterate our readiness to work together actively in order to attain the strongest possible outcome on nuclear disarmament in the next NPT review cycle. It has been Brazil's traditional stand that efforts aiming at non-proliferation must take place in parallel with efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament.

Horizontal proliferation is a real, serious concern. Parties to the NPT must take a sober look at current challenges to the regime and try hard not only to find ways to ensure compliance with its prohibitions, but also to make the Treaty universal. The threat posed by enduring nuclear arsenals is perceived by a large majority of NPT members to be at least as important as the risks of further proliferation.

Non-proliferation efforts must, however, respect the basic and inalienable right of all States, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination and in conformity with applicable legal obligations.

Having held the Presidency of the VII Review Conference of the NPT in 2005, Brazil is expected, following past practice, to present to the LXI UNGA a draft resolution calling for the convening of the preparatory process for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. We hope this process will contribute to the strengthening of the Treaty and to its balanced implementation.

Still in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, I should point out that, as part of its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, Brazil accepted the Chairmanship of the Nuclear Suppliers Group for 2006-2007 and hosted the 2006 Plenary in Brasilia, in the month of June.

It is regrettable that throughout 2006 the Conference on Disarmament (CD) remained in deadlock over its programme of work. The structured debates based on all items of its agenda during the 2006 Session were, however, an innovative attempt to create a more receptive environment. We hope that initiatives such as this can facilitate the adoption of a substantive programme of work.

Brazil hopes to achieve progress at the Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference, to be held in Geneva in November. We are currently working in coordination with other GRULAC members, with a view to presenting joint proposals that include the idea of establishing a "support unit" for the Convention. The topic of export and import controls should also be discussed during the review process.

In the field of conventional weapons, we cannot but express deep disappointment at the lack of substantive results at the I Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, held in New York last June. The General Assembly should adopt a decision in order to ensure a proper framework for the continuous assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as measures to strengthen it.

Brazil is committed to the goal of negotiating effective, balanced and non-discriminatory multilateral regulations on the international arms trade, including a possible future treaty to regulate trade in conventional arms. One of the core objectives of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) must be that of preventing conventional weapons from being diverted to illicit purposes, such as organised crime and terrorism, without prejudice of the right of States to produce, acquire and maintain such weapons for self-defence purposes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter.

Brazil's arms transfers are already subject to regular national export control procedures, which incorporate all international commitments to which the country is part. It is important that discussion on a possible future ATT should not focus solely on criteria for authorisations of arms transfers, but also on practical measures aimed at preventing diversion.

The concept of development is closely related to that of disarmament. Arms expenditures divert substantive financial, material and human resources that could be otherwise invested in social programs. We believe that in the context of the future negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty due consideration should be given to the taxation of the arms trade as an example of an innovative financing mechanism.

Thank you.