



**77th United Nations General Assembly
First Committee
Statement by the Delegation of Brazil**

Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election for the critical task of guiding us through First Committee this year.

As we kick-off this Committee's session, old and new conflicts generate and intensify severe humanitarian crises, with notable impact on food security and the access to energy sources. Those crises feed a sinister vicious cycle of mistrust and conflict that leads to persistent instability.

In response, countries increase their military spending to unprecedented levels, in a spiral that some have called "The Great Global Rearmament". In such scenario, substantial financial means are earmarked to the expansion of conventional and strategic arsenals, while crucial resources are diverted from other key sectors of human life, such as education, healthcare and sustainable development.

It is high time we overcame the elusive narrative that more weapons, especially strategic weapons, make us safer. Security does not exist in

a vacuum. The yearnings of a few for a purported absolute security only results in diminished security for all.

Mr. Chairman,

Faced with expanding arsenals and intensifying nuclear rhetoric, we were unable to reach an outcome document at the 10th NPT RevCon. Despite the extremely polarized environment, and despite the efforts of the president of the Conference, we had before us a text that, although far from ideal, was a possible and necessary compromise. It is therefore deeply regrettable that consensus on it was broken at the last minute.

Much has been said about a crisis in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime after two consecutive failed RevCons. The regime is indeed in crisis, but not only for the reasons mentioned. We must not mistake the symptom for the disease.

It is no use trying to understand the crisis of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime through the exclusive lens of superpower rivalry. In fact, the crisis stems from the abandonment by nuclear-weapon States of the "grand bargain" that made the adoption of the NPT possible: the undertaking by non-nuclear-weapon States not to pursue nuclear weapons, which is inextricably linked to the obligation of nuclear-weapon States to disarm. Over its five decades of existence, however, it seems that only the non-proliferation side of the bargain is being consistently met. And yet, there are those who insist on furthering this already untenable imbalance. This state of affairs is simply unsustainable, and might ultimately lead to the demise of the NPT regime.

In the opposite direction, last June, more than 80 states met in Vienna to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the total, irreversible, verifiable and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons. In adopting the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, the States parties and

observers to the TPNW reiterated the moral and ethical imperatives that led to the adoption of the Treaty and that should pave the way for our common objective of general and complete disarmament. The Vienna Declaration also includes an unequivocal condemnation of any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances. Brazil fully subscribes to that condemnation.

Mr. Chairman,

The first step on the tortuous road leading to nuclear disarmament is to achieve a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. Not a moratorium: a legally binding prohibition. We celebrate recent accessions to the CTBT and insist on the need for those Annex II countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, thus preventing its entry into force, to do so without delay.

In a recent trip to Brazil and neighboring countries, the CTBTO Executive Secretary applauded our region for carrying the torch of leadership in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. In fact, the Treaty of Tlatelolco established the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a permanently inhabited area of the world, paving the way for similar initiatives.

We believe that the strengthening of existing NWFZs and the creation of new zones based on consensus among all States in the respective regions will be a crucial step towards our common goal of achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

We also take pride in having developed with Argentina an innovative and highly successful model of nuclear safeguards implementation through the establishment of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). A landmark for the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime, ABACC is an example to the world as an instrument for building trust

and verifying the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as recognized by General Assembly resolution 76/52, adopted by consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

As a developing country with considerable space capabilities and aspirations to become a full spacefaring nation, it is in Brazil's utmost interest that outer space remains peaceful, stable, safe and accessible to all. We look forward to the successful conclusion of the ongoing OEWG on reducing space threats. Brazil hopes that this process will help us to arrive at common understandings on what constitutes responsible behavior in outer space and build much-needed mutual trust, thus paving the way for a future binding instrument to supplement the existing legal framework.

Mr. Chairman,

Earlier this year, the Brazilian Special Representative to the CD was appointed Chair of the GGE on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. Since then, many States parties to the CCW have offered significant contributions which have enriched the current debate and indicated possible future options for the development of the international framework concerning LAWS. The group held two formal sessions and three intersessional informal sessions and approved a consensual report in July. Brazil appreciates the support received from the members of the group, whose work touches upon a strategically important subject for all High Contracting Parties of the CCW and the international community as a whole.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the Committee's attention to the topic of Program Planning.

General Assembly resolution 76/236 reiterated that whenever the CPC cannot provide conclusions and recommendations on a given

subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee will consider the said programme at the very start of its session, in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee no later than four weeks after the start of the session.

This year, the CPC could not reach consensus on five programmes, including Programme 3 - "Disarmament" -, which will be considered by the First Committee on October 13th. We stress the sensitiveness of this issue and trust that the First Committee will be able to complete the review of said programme and send its conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee in a timely manner.

I thank you.