



UNGA 77
First Committee - Thematic Debate 2
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

Mr. Chairman,

The very notion of weapons of mass destruction shocks the conscience of humankind. Their mere existence challenges international humanitarian law and the dictates of public conscience. Their use or threat of use anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, cannot and shall not be tolerated.

Fifty years after the opening for signatures of the Biological Weapons Convention, we are yet to agree on a multilateral mechanism to verify compliance with its provisions. Brazil favors the prompt resumption of negotiations with a view to the adoption of a binding verification protocol. Such protocol will strengthen the implementation of the Convention and foster trust among States Parties regarding the exclusively peaceful use of knowledge and technology in the field of Life Sciences. The upcoming BWC Review Conference represents a unique opportunity to resume such discussions without delay.

While biological weapons are poorly regulated, chemical weapons are under intense international scrutiny. The CWC represents the golden standard in terms of multilateral regimes on weapons of mass destruction. It has established a comprehensive, legally binding and non-discriminatory prohibition, and is equipped with a full-fledged and effective verification mechanism. It is unfortunate that even with all

this institutional apparatus – very much to our revulsion - instances of use of these weapons in different regions of the world still take place .

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force and of the creation of the OPCW, allow me to reaffirm Brazil's unyielding support for the work of the Organization and to renew our expectation that we will soon be able to overcome the regrettable politicization that has undermined the culture of consensus within the OPCW and its decision-making bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

The possibility that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of non-State actors, particularly terrorists, is a matter of special concern. Security Council Resolution 1540 is a valuable tool in addressing this very serious matter.

Acknowledging the relevance of the matter, Brazil has been actively engaged in the discussions in the Security Council regarding the future of the 1540 regime, which is currently undergoing a comprehensive review process.

In line with UNSC Resolution 2325, adopted in the wake of the first review process, we understand that new risks of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their delivery systems and related materials, and the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce for proliferation purposes must be duly considered in the current review. However, we reiterate our belief that any changes to the resolution's mandate should not lead to unduly impose obstacles to the access to sensitive and dual use goods and technologies for peaceful purposes.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.