BRAZIL

Statement by

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"Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency"

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At the outset, I would like to thank the delegation of Slovakia for presenting the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which Brazil is glad to cosponsor. The Brazilian delegation also welcomes the Director General of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, and wishes to thank him for the presentation of the Annual Report for 2013, as well as for the updated information on the Agency's activities.

Brazil remains supportive of IAEA efforts to promote more efficient and effective safeguards, in strict accordance with the relevant legal instruments entered into by Member States with the Agency, and taking into account the necessary distinction between legal obligations and voluntary commitments, such as the Additional Protocol.

Brazil joined others in the IAEA General Conference’s request in 2012 for the Secretariat to report on the development of new approaches for safeguards implementation through the so-called "State-level Concept" (SLC). We also supported the General Conference’s decision in 2013 to request from the Secretariat a Supplementary Document, to be produced after consultation with Member States and submitted for consideration and action by the IAEA Board of Governors before the fifth-eighth session of the General Conference, which took place last September.

In the 2014 Resolution on "Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of Agency Safeguards", the General Conference welcomed, with Brazil's support, the clarifications and additional information provided by the Secretariat in this Supplementary Document.
The General Conference welcomed in particular the important assurances contained in the document and in the statements made by the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat. Amongst these assurances, I would highlight the following:

(i) the SLC will not entail additional rights or obligations under the relevant safeguards agreements;

(ii) the SLC will be applied to all States with safeguards agreements;

(iii) the SLC is not a substitute for an Additional Protocol (AP); it is not designed as a means for the Agency to obtain from a State without an AP in force the information and access provided for in that instrument; AP measures will continue to be implemented only in States with an AP in force;

(iv) States will not be required to provide any additional information beyond their existing legal obligations.

The General Conference also noted a point which we strongly endorse: that the development and implementation of State-level approaches requires close consultation and coordination with the State and/or regional authority, and agreement by the State concerned on practical arrangements for effective implementation of all safeguards measures identified for use in the field if not already in place. We believe this is essential to ensure that all parties are satisfied that any possible new measures fall within the scope of the relevant legal instruments in force between the State and the Agency.

The development of the Supplementary Document and the decisions by the General Conference on the SLC resulted from an unprecedented process of consultations and technical meetings between the Secretariat and Member States this year. For Brazil, this process introduced a new and encouraging dynamic in how safeguards issues should be dealt with within the IAEA.

The discussions have given room for greater accountability and transparency on the part of the Secretariat, and for closer involvement of Member States in the development of proposed new policies. Brazil welcomes the unfolding of events this year. The openness and transparency that have characterized the exchanges between the Secretariat and Member States should be continuing features of the ongoing and future treatment of safeguards within the Agency.

Brazil trusts that the Secretariat will abide by the assurances given, and that no new "interpretation" about the SLC will be evolved unilaterally. In Brazil's view, any future steps related to the development of the concept, in light of the experience to be acquired by the Secretariat in the coming years, would only be acceptable as a result of close consultation and coordination with Member States, with the results being consolidated in a future document for the consideration of the IAEA Board of Governors.

As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated, "there are no right hands for the wrong weapons". As we approach the 2015 NPT Review Conference, serious consideration must be given to nuclear disarmament steps, as an indispensable goal for upholding the Treaty's continued authority, relevance and integrity. The synergy between General Assembly resolutions and the IAEA's statutory functions is becoming increasingly apparent.

Article III.B.1 of the Agency's Statute states that the IAEA shall conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international cooperation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies.
The IAEA has performed essential verification activities in the past, either in country-specific situations or pursuant to requests from interested States parties to disarmament agreements.

In this context, Brazil welcomes the fact that, in its 2014 Safeguards Resolution, the General Conference noted that the IAEA must remain ready to assist with verification tasks under nuclear disarmament or arms control agreements that it may be requested to carry out by the States parties to such agreements. We believe this role must be supported and pursued.

Brazil notes that the IAEA Safeguards Resolution also recalls that the 2010 NPT Review Conference, in Action 30 of its Final Document, called for wider application of safeguards to peaceful nuclear facilities in the nuclear weapon States, and stressed that comprehensive safeguards and additional protocols should be universally applied once the complete elimination of nuclear weapons has been achieved. We will be tasked to consider the implementation of Action 30 – together with the rest of the 2010 Action Plan - at the NPT Review Conference next year.

As to the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, I wish to stress what Brazil has reiterated time and again: there is no alternative to a political, negotiated solution to the issue. We should all strive to preserve the positive atmosphere stemming from November last year, which allowed for the agreements reached both with the IAEA and the P5+1. In light of the importance of the negotiations that are expected to take place over the next weeks, we reiterate our call on all parties to remain engaged towards a comprehensive, long-term solution to the issue and the normalization of the application of the IAEA's safeguards in Iran.

Brazil places great importance on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, from power generation, human health, industry, to agriculture and environmental protection. We are convinced that nuclear technology will continue to be of great relevance for the achievement of the MDGs and future sustainable development goals.

As a country that is both recipient and donor, Brazil fully supports the constant strengthening and steady implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation program. Building upon an initiative by the IAEA Deputy Director-General for Technical Cooperation, Brazil has increased its cooperation in the nuclear field with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, in particular Angola and Mozambique, focusing on areas such as licensing, medical applications and the management of technical cooperation projects.

In our view, apart from being one of the IAEA's main statutory tenets, technical cooperation activities also constitute a key instrument for ensuring compliance with Article IV of the NPT, and should thus be a primary focus of attention of the NPT Review Conference next year.