BRAZIL

General Assembly

Agenda item 34 - Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Carlos Duarte

Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations

11 September 2015

(Check against delivery)
Mr President,

It has been more than thirty years since Brazil took part in the establishment of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic by this General Assembly. Then, as now, Brazil, together with South American and African partner countries, sought to bring about the consolidation of the South Atlantic Ocean as a zone of peace, free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Since its inception, the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic has succeeded consolidating these original goals. It has been faced with the challenges posed by current global issues that are of interest to developing countries, such as sustainable development, South-South cooperation, disarmament issues and the fight against poverty.

Mr President,

Seven Ministerial Meetings of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic have resulted, since 1984, in the establishment of a set of principles for the activities of the regional arrangement. The last Ministerial Meeting of the Zone, held in Montevideo, Uruguay on 15 and 16 January 2013, enabled its Members States to renew commitments and pursue efforts towards deepening cooperation in areas such as global governance, development, economic and financial issues, disarmament, peace and security, defense, sustainable development and climate change, oceans and marine resources, and international crime.

Moreover, concrete cooperation initiatives were provided for in the Montevideo Plan of Action, approved at that Meeting, in the following areas: mapping and exploration of the seabed, protection and conservation of the marine environment and marine scientific research, air and maritime transportation, maritime safety and security, public security and transnational organized crime, as well as capacity building.
Mr President,

These ambitious commitments and mandates adopted by our Ministers reflect the increasing economic, political and strategic importance of the South Atlantic region for its coastal States in the context of current global political and economic realities.

We hope that our joint endeavor will continue to increase mutual exchanges between African and South American peoples, which are bound by strong historical ties and cultural heritage.

Mr President,

Allow me to underscore the commitment of the Member States of the Zone to avoid militarization of the South Atlantic by reinforcing further cooperation aimed at fostering peace and development. These are the values we seek to reaffirm through the draft Resolution before the General Assembly today.

In concluding, I would like to express, Mr President, my appreciation to the Government of Cape Verde, which so kindly offered to host the next Ministerial Meeting of the Zone. I wish the Government of Cape Verde all the best for their Presidency, and I encourage Member States of the Zone to actively participate in the upcoming Ministerial Meeting. I wish also to extend my sincere thanks to the Government of Uruguay for the excellent work done so far during their Presidency of the Zone.

I thank you, Mr President.