

2015 Review Conference – NPT
Main Committee II- Non Proliferation
New York, May 2015

Speech presented by Dr. Odilon Marcuzzo do Canto, Secretary of The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC).

Mr. Chairman,
please receive my congratulations for your designation to lead this Committee, and my wishes of success.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, representatives of the guest organisations, ladies and gentlemen,

History has demonstrated that, undoubtedly, the best way to guarantee security and progress for human kind is promoting understanding and co-operation among nations. Brazil and Argentina are proud of their history built on the basis of common understanding, in which consensus has been far more outstanding than eventual punctual disputes.

A clear example is the relationship attained by both countries, in connection with the nuclear sector. Brazil and Argentina signed, in July 1991, the AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCLUSIVELY PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. In that date, they created their COMMON SYSTEM FOR ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS (SCCC) and the Brazilian Argentine Agency of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials —ABACC—, the world's only existing bilateral mutual safeguards inspection agency.

The Agreement implied a clear and definite commitment to the use of all the materials and nuclear facilities submitted to their jurisdictions or control, exclusively for peaceful purposes, and, at the same time, it recognises the sovereign right of every nation to have access to nuclear technology for the economic and social development of their inhabitants.

Today, ABACC's system represents a paradigmatic framework of the long process of economic, political, technological and cultural integration by both countries.

On the 13th December next year, ABACC will be completing twenty five years of activities within the framework of the Agreement between Brazil, Argentina, ABACC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of safeguards- the, so called, Quatripartite Agreement.

During this period, more than 1,700 inspections were carried out in both countries. Last year, 62 inspections in Argentine facilities and 56 in Brazilian facilities were accomplished.

Mr. Chairman,

The search for excellence has been a constant concern in ABACC's history. During these almost twenty five years, ABACC has been operating with institutional policies designed for the continued technical training of its human resources. The qualification of its officials and staff of inspectors, always allied to the use of "state-of-the-art" equipment, is a relevant factor involved in the success of the ABACC and in the independence of its conclusions.

The co-operation with the IAEA has been crucial in these undertakings. Co-operation and mutual understanding have been the basis for the joint work performed by the IAEA and the ABACC in the application of safeguards, as provided in the Quadripartite Agreement.

The good results attained in the joint safeguards activities and procedures, with regard to unannounced inspections and the joint use of safeguards equipment units, reflect the high level of understanding and co-operation reached by both Agencies.

This atmosphere of mutual confidence is responsible for the excellent results obtained throughout these almost twenty five years of joint work.

Mechanisms developed for joint operation, such as the common use of equipment (the Joint Use Agreement), allow for a significant optimization of resources.

The partnership that ABACC maintains with the IAEA is, in our understanding, fundamental, for both agencies to comply with their institutional objectives with efficiency and effectiveness.

ABACC also maintains strong technical cooperation with the European Safeguard Research and Development Association-ESARDA, with EURATOM and with R&D institutions devoted to nuclear safeguards, in several countries. These efforts are mainly focused to the areas of non-destructive analyses, containment and surveillance, training courses and safeguards approaches.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The expectation regarding expansion in the use of nuclear reactors in order to satisfy the growing demand for energy, together with the possibilities of using nuclear technologies in all sectors of life, from industry to agriculture and health, poses great challenges to IAEA. Regional systems, implemented in coordination with the IAEA, can make a positive contribution to the application of safeguards. In this regard, ABACC, with its almost 25 years of experience in safeguards application, may serve as a reference.

Mr. Chairman,

Even though the core-business of this Committee, as well as ABACC's,

is concentrated in one of the, so called, three pillars of the NPT, I firmly believe that the success of the Treaty is connected with the strengthening of all the three pillars. I also understand that this Review Conference is an important step in this direction. Therefore, I congratulate all the distinguished delegations of the states parties gathered here in their best effort to achieve a better world for all mankind.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, please accept my appreciation for giving me the opportunity to deliver this statement.

Thank you all.