

**Statement by the Secretary of the
BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE AGENCY FOR ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL OF
NUCLEAR MATERIALS – ABACC**

Eliás Palacios

**at the
44th General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency – IAEA**

Mr. President, Mr. Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, distinguished audience:

On behalf of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials – ABACC, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and wish you success during the works of this conference.

Along these years, since the creation of ABACC and with the continuous support from the part of the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil, a solid regional safeguards system for the application of safeguards in all nuclear installations of both countries has been established.

In the framework of the Quadripartite Agreement between the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Argentina, the International Atomic Energy Agency and ABACC, coordination between both agencies has improved satisfactorily. To mention just a few accomplishments of this last year, 20 new Facility Attachments were approved, meaning that a total of 30 installations have now these documents in force, and agreement was reached on proceedings for common use of equipment in almost all nuclear installations of the regional system. Cooperation between the IAEA and ABACC has become more intense in the last few years.

Also, together with Argentina and Brazil, ABACC has started conversations with the IAEA aiming at the signature of the Additional Protocol.

Furthermore, ABACC has strengthened its bonds with EURATOM by means of the exchange of experiences and cooperation in several issues of common interest. Additionally, the ambitious cooperation program with the United States Department of Energy continued and, most recently, a new cooperation arrangement with the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute of the Republic of Korea was signed.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to briefly refer to a subject to which the International Atomic Energy Agency is devoting great effort and ABACC keeps increasing expectations: Integrated Safeguards.

ABACC considers this subject relevant and strongly supports the Agency's effort to outline the Integrated Safeguards. By efficiently applying this new safeguards system, the Agency will be able to obtain credibility in assuring that in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol in force, there is no diversion of nuclear material from declared nuclear activities, and the absence of undeclared material and nuclear activities. The evolution of Integrated Safeguards should conduct, surely, to improve the relation cost-efficiency of safeguards.

The transparency resulting from the implementation of Integrated Safeguards should favour a complete utilization, by the IAEA, of regional safeguards systems. ABACC is prepared to continue cooperating with the Agency in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of international safeguards.

Mr. President, distinguished audience, I believe I have briefly informed you about the accomplishments of the last year and of ABACC current concerns.

Thank you for your attention.