

# ABACC: the bilateral safeguards system's roles in global processes of nuclear nonproliferation<sup>1</sup>

Sérgio Luiz Cruz Aguilar<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Continuing the understandings that were initiated over the last years of military regimes related to Argentina and Brazil nuclear programs, presidents Alfonsín and Sarney signed in November 1990 the Joint Declaration on Nuclear Policy. On July 18, 1991 they signed the Bilateral Agreement for Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. The treaty created the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), with international legal personality and composed of experts from both countries, headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, to administer the Common System for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material that aimed to monitor the full cycle of nuclear activities in both countries. Subsequently, on December 13, 1991, in Vienna, headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was signed the Quadripartite agreement between Brazil, Argentina, ABACC and the IAEA, constituting a sui generis system of safeguards. This paper presents how was established the ABACC, the mechanisms of accounting and control created, the relation established between the Agency and the IAEA under the terms of the Quadripartite Agreement, and the contribution of this bilateral safeguards system to global processes on nonproliferation.

**KEY-WORDS:** ABACC – Nuclear Nonproliferation – IAEA – Brazil - Argentina

---

<sup>1</sup> Special thanks to Selma Chi and Orpet Peixoto, ABACC officials for the information given to the author.

<sup>2</sup> Professor of Department of Sociology and Anthropology - Faculty of Philosophy and Sciences - Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho (UNESP) - Marília – SP – Brazil.

AGUILAR, Sérgio Luiz Cruz. ABACC: the bilateral safeguards system's roles in global processes of nuclear non-proliferation. In: Global Consortium on Security Transformation -Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Series, 2011, Santiago do Chile. *Abstract...* Santiago do Chile: GCST, 2011.

**(FULL TEXT UPON REQUEST TO [info@abacc.org.br](mailto:info@abacc.org.br))**