

The ABACC experience: continuity and credibility in the nuclear programs of Brazil and Argentina

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ABSTRACT

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) is a unique bilateral nonproliferation regime created by Brazil and Argentina after a long process of negotiations and confidence building. The creation of the agency in July 1991 marked a paradigmatic shift in the Brazilian-Argentine relationship, converting their long rivalry into a profound strategic partnership. This article presents a historical overview of the creation of ABACC and discusses how it paved the way for the integration of Brazil and Argentina into the nonproliferation regime. The article also shows how ABACC tackled nonproliferation challenges in the twenty-first century, helping Brazil and Argentina continue their nuclear programs with fewer risks to the autonomy and development goals traditionally defended in their foreign policies.

KEYWORDS: Brazil, Argentina, Iran, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, South America, Additional Protocol, International Atomic Energy Agency, safeguards

PLUM, Mariana Oliveira do Nascimento; RESENDE, Carlos Augusto Rollemberg de. The ABACC experience: continuity and credibility in the nuclear programs of Brazil and Argentina. *The Nonproliferation Review*, Washington, v.23, issue 5-6, Special Section: Brazilian Nuclear Policy, p. 575-593, 2017.

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<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10736700.2017.1339402?scroll=top&needAccess=true>