

**Statement of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear  
Materials on the at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
General Debates  
Geneva, April 23 – May 4, 2018**

Mr Chairman, Excellences, ladies and gentleman.

On behalf of ABACC – the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials –, allow me first to congratulate you for your election to serve as the Chair of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to wish you all the success in this endeavour.

As a regional intergovernmental organization, ABACC was established by the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy – known as the Bilateral Agreement. This Agreement was signed on 18 July 1991, and entered into force on the 12 December of the same year.

The Bilateral Agreement constitutes a milestone in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and is a decisive non-proliferation tool between these two countries with advanced nuclear programs in our region, the first NWFZ in a densely populated area of the world. That demonstrates the clear and definitive commitment of Argentina and Brazil to the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy under their jurisdiction, and, at same time, recognizes the sovereign right of each country to develop and use nuclear technology for the economic, social development and benefit of their people.

The application of the Common System of Accounting and Control of nuclear materials is based on mutual trust between the two countries and the independent robust system administered by ABACC to verify that all nuclear material in all nuclear activities are not diverted for the fabrication of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive device.

Mr. Chairman,

ABACC has consolidated a solid international credibility in the effective and efficient verification of the nuclear activities of Argentina and Brazil. The main reasons for this were the continued political commitment, technical and economic support provided by the two countries, and ABACC's independence in implementing its verification activities. This is the corollary of the establishment of a profound and lasting relationship based on mutual confidence between Argentina and Brazil, and

it is a confirmation that the cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect among the countries can contribute decisively to regional and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

ABACC is rightfully considered one of the most successful initiatives in non-proliferation in the world. The process and the lessons learnt from this experience may serve as an inspiration for other regions in the world.

In its 26 years of existence, ABACC has performed more than 3,000 inspections of nuclear installations in both countries. By 2017, three inspectors, on average, were involved daily in inspection missions in Argentina and Brazil. In 2017, ABACC performed about a hundred inspections in the nuclear facilities of the countries, and continued verifying the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear activities in Argentina and Brazil drawing independent and sound technical based conclusions.

Mr Chairman,

ABACC, Argentina, Brazil and the IAEA signed on 13 of December 1991 a comprehensive safeguards agreement, the so-called Quadripartite Agreement, which entered into force in March 1994. This agreement has well defined provisions on the coordination and cooperation of activities between the IAEA and ABACC, in particular, that the two agencies shall cooperate and minimize the duplication of activities, and at same time, draw independent conclusions. The good results obtained in the coordination of activities between the IAEA and ABACC throughout the years reflect the high level of understanding and cooperation reached by both organizations.

Under the cooperation framework, ABACC is firmly committed to continue furthering ways and means by which the IAEA safeguards could make full use of the findings and conclusions of this regional mechanism as envisaged in the Quadripartite comprehensive agreement and as it has been recognized by the previous NPT review conferences.

At 26 years of ABACC and at 50 years of the NPT, ABACC wishes to share this successful experience within the NPT framework to signify the added value of this regional model to non-proliferation and highlights its commitment towards maintaining its technical effectiveness, independence and international credibility in fulfilling its mandate.

We hope the PrepCom Sessions and the Review Conference in 2020 will reiterate the relevance of the model regional system established by ABACC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.