

**STATEMENT OF DR. MARCO MARZO, SECRETARY OF THE BRAZILIAN-
ARGENTINE AGENCY OF ACCOUNTING FOR AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR
MATERIALS - ABACC - AT THE 62nd IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

17 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2018, VIENNA

MADAM PRESIDENT,

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials – ABACC- congratulates you for on your election to chair the 62nd Session of the General Conference of the IAEA.

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials - ABACC - is the only bilateral agency for nuclear safeguards in the world.

The mission of ABACC is to verify that Argentina and Brazil comply with the commitments undertaken by the Agreement between the two countries for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (Bilateral Agreement).

This mission requires that the conclusions on the verification of nuclear materials, in all the facilities of both countries, be independent and based on solid technical activities, that is, with high credibility.

Considering that during the last three years the budget of the ABACC remained practically unchanged, at approximately 5 million dollars per year, the search for efficiency is a permanent priority of the Secretariat.

Priority was given in 2017 to the training of ABACC inspectors, the updating and increasing use of equipment and technologies for measuring nuclear material and containment and surveillance systems; and the introduction of new verification procedures, which reduce inspection effort without loss of effectiveness.

In 2017, ABACC conducted 99 inspections at nuclear facilities in both countries and 20 technical missions for the installation and maintenance of measurement and containment and surveillance systems. On average, every day, 4 inspectors are conducting inspection missions.

Based on the verification activities, the ABACC can affirm that in the year 2017 Argentina and Brazil have complied with the basic commitment of exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy, in accordance with the provisions of the Bilateral Agreement.

MADAM PRESIDENT,

The nuclear activities of Argentina and Brazil continue to grow steadily. ABACC faces important challenges in the near future, some of them similar to those that we successfully faced more than 25 years ago, when ABACC led the verification safeguards approaches of the sensitive facilities in Argentina and Brazil.

I would like to emphasize that the ABACC is prepared to respond to these challenges, exploring and proposing mechanisms and concepts for the development of adequate verification approaches to new nuclear facilities, including modular reactors and reactors for radioisotope production.

I would also like to emphasize the permanent support and commitment of Argentina and Brazil towards the activities of the ABACC, providing the human and financial resources that allow its effective operation.

I would like to conclude by informing that Ms. Elena MACEIRAS was appointed Argentine Secretary of the ABACC since September of this year, and she is the first woman to occupy this position in the ABACC.

THANK YOU, MADAM PRESIDENT.