H.E. Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota
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(check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee. The Brazilian delegation reaffirms its full confidence in your leadership to preside over our work during the next weeks. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Angela Kane for her opening remarks and to commend her on the work carried out as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Brazil fully associates itself with the statements by Egypt on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) and by Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). My delegation equally endorses the statement to be delivered by New Zealand on behalf of a number of countries on the issue of the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons.

As the pioneering treaty on the establishment of the first denuclearized zone in a densely populated area of the planet, the Treaty of Tlatelolco deserves special mention here for its contribution to the paramount objective of a world free from nuclear weapons. In the XXIII General Conference of OPANAL, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, last August, we, members of OPANAL, once again reiterated our commitment to carry on with efforts towards the complete and irreversible elimination of such weapons.

While thanking fellow members of the Organization, the former Secretary-General Gioconda Ubeda, of Costa Rica, and, in particular, the Republic of Argentina, for the productive outcome achieved in the Conference, we, as members of a nuclear weapons-free zone, recall that, in a world where estimates indicate we are under the menace of about 17,000 nuclear-weapons, pending NPT obligations must be met and the nuclear-weapons-States must eliminate this most devastating means of warfare.

In this regard, Brazil would also like to convey a word of praise and support to Norway and Mexico for their most relevant efforts in advancing the international debate on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the incompatibility of their use with international humanitarian law, as indicated by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its 1996 Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that preventing the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons has been a relative success of the NPT regime. However, the same cannot be said of the nuclear disarmament side of the bargain, where the "compliance deficit" on the part of nuclear weapon States continues to exist. It is time for these States to fulfill the nuclear disarmament related measures they have agreed to implement under the treaty and pursuant to the action plans adopted by the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

In this context, Brazil welcomes the timely convening of the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament held on September 26th. We were encouraged by the large number of high-level national authorities taking the floor to express their strong support for firm and sustained actions towards the elimination of nuclear weapons as well as for the beginning of negotiations on a multilateral international instrument on nuclear disarmament as a matter of urgency.

During the meeting, the Brazilian delegation expressed the reasons why we are convinced that the promotion of nuclear disarmament must be a top priority in the international community’s agenda.
First, there is the humanitarian perspective. As the Oslo Conference last March emphasized, nuclear weapons have no specific targets and do not spare civilians from the widespread suffering and destruction they cause. They are therefore inconsistent with international law, in particular international humanitarian law. They can also inflict potentially widespread, severe and long-term damage to the environment, human health, food security and the global economy. From this perspective, nuclear disarmament is not only a legal obligation but also an urgent ethical imperative. As already mentioned, Brazil commends the Government of Mexico for deciding to host a follow-up Conference on the issue. We urge Nuclear Weapon States, especially those that have not participated in the conference in Norway, to actively take part in the Conference in Mexico. As owners of nuclear arsenals, they bear a special responsibility in avoiding any possibility of what would be, by any measure, a catastrophe.

Second, there is the socioeconomic perspective, which the UN Secretary-General so wisely and aptly recalled in highlighting the regrettable fact that the "world is over-armed and peace is under-funded". Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, and even in spite of the current global financial constraints, nuclear-weapons States continue to invest large sums in order to maintain and modernize their nuclear arsenals. It is estimated that half the amount annually invested in nuclear arsenals would be enough to achieve all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. From this perspective, nuclear disarmament is not only a rational economic measure, but would represent a much required correction of course with a view to addressing root causes of instability in the long run.

Third, there is the security-related perspective. As long as nuclear arsenals continue to exist, the world will never be entirely free from the risk of a devastating nuclear detonation, be it intentional or accidental. And as long as a limited group of countries consider themselves entitled to possess nuclear weapons, there will be a risk that other States and non-State actors may try to acquire or develop such weapons. From this perspective, besides being a way of addressing and reducing current dangers resulting from the existence of present nuclear arsenals, nuclear disarmament is also the only effective measure against nuclear proliferation, which could lead to scenarios even more unstable and risky than we have nowadays.

For all those reasons, Mr. Chairman, the Brazilian delegation firmly stresses the need to renew efforts within the multilateral system to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We underline that this is a task that demands the unequivocal effort of States, but also of civil society and of every citizen that does not and cannot remain indifferent to the horror posed by weapons of mass destruction, no matter who holds them.

Noting that the absence of a political horizon persists with regard to nuclear disarmament - a legal commitment already subscribed to by nuclear weapon States-, we believe it is high time for the international community to ask when and how the collective, multilateral push for the implementation of this obligation will take place.

While we welcome bilateral agreements aimed at reducing the number of certain types of weapons and note with satisfaction the speech by US President Barack Obama on the proposal to further reduce nuclear arsenals, we must recall that these initiatives do not lead to permanent disarmament, which can only be achieved through irreversible, transparent and verifiable measures. In this regard, we received, with serious concern, recent news of data indicating an increase in strategic stockpiles, despite plans for the opposite.

In this regard, we would like to call your attention to the working paper submitted by the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) to the Open Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Proposals for Multilateral Disarmament, which makes the case for a clear, legally binding and multilateral commitment, on the part of all States, to the goal of nuclear disarmament, with clearly defined benchmarks and timelines. This commitment shall lead to the development of a
comprehensive set of prohibitions that include banning the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, testing, use and transfer of such weapons and providing for their complete elimination.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country unequivocally committed to the NPT and to the obligations contained therein, we cannot but also voice our disappointment with the postponement of the convening in 2012 of a Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, as provided for by the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Brazil believes that the successful convening of the Conference represents an essential part of the NPT and of the current review cycle. In our view, the Conference must be held at the earliest possible date. We urge all countries of the region, without exception, to attend, as it can represent the beginning of a process designed to foster confidence-building measures among neighboring States.

We are ready to contribute to all efforts leading to the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones around the world. Brazil takes pride in having developed, together with Argentina, a successful model of cooperation and confidence-building represented by the the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC). We believe that the Agency could set an example and serve as a source of inspiration for our partners in the Middle East that strive for the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in that region.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil continues to attach the utmost importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. In this regard, we reiterate the need to overcome the stalemate that has been precluding it from carrying out substantive activities for seventeen years. In our view, the problems faced by the CD are of a political nature and cannot be dissociated from other challenges of the international peace and security agenda.

Blaming the CD or the UN disarmament architecture for the absence of concrete results in disarmament may be easy, but will not serve the purpose of offering solutions to challenges that are collective and should, as such, be dealt with through multilaterally-established frameworks and with the objective of leading, as it should be, to commitments of a universal nature.

Furthermore, we believe that the stalemate could also be an opportunity for us to look at our collective security mechanisms and discuss, in particular, the role of the Security Council and its ability to overcome the logic of the so-called strategic stability among its permanent members, which has a clear impact on the whole peace and security system, including on the work of the CD and of this First Committee.

It is our view that the very identification of the five Nuclear Weapon States recognized by the NPT with the permanent members of the Security Council appointed in the aftermath of the Second World War is one of the most striking expressions of the anachronism inherent in a situation that is marked by the perpetuation of nuclear deterrence policies and that explains, to a great extent, the absence of concrete progress in the nuclear disarmament field for more than 60 years.

Brazil believes that the CD should be enabled to deal substantively with a number of long protracted matters. Besides nuclear disarmament, which we believe constitutes a permanent priority, the Conference should be given the political conditions to negotiate a legally binding instrument granting non-nuclear weapon States assurances against the use or threat of use of
nuclear weapons by nuclear weapon states, as well as a legally binding instrument to prevent the placing of any kind of weapons in outer space.

We welcome political commitments and voluntary arrangements made in this regard. However, they cannot be a substitute for legally binding measures imposing firm and long-term obligations on States. Brazil recently took part in the Group of Governmental Experts established by General Assembly Resolution 65/68 to prepare a report on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. We are glad the GGE recognized that TCBMs may constitute the basis for future legally binding measures.

In this context, Brazil joins Russia in proposing that the issue of "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space" is addressed in a GA resolution.

Brazil also stands ready to start negotiations on a fissile material treaty within the CD. In our perspective, however, in order to have any impact, such instrument must deal with past production or pre-existing material. As we all know, current stocks are enough to continue the production of nuclear weapons for centuries to come. This is not a scenario we would like future generations to inherit from us.

Brazil deeply regrets that, almost two decades after the conclusion of negotiations on the CTBT, its entry into force remains stalled. Brazil would like to urge once again all countries that have not acceded to the Treaty, in particular Annex II countries, to do so as a matter of urgency.

It is not without concern that we continue to learn of some States' activities aimed at the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons through other means, notably non-explosive experiments. In our view, such activities are contrary to the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), its spirit, if not the letter, and strongly undermine its desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure. In this regard, we were disappointed at the fact that the final declaration of the Conference on the Article 14 of the Treaty, held two weeks ago, could not reflect this understanding.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reiterate Brazil's firm commitment to the effective and efficient implementation of the IAEA safeguards system. We believe that one of the most relevant contributions we can make to our shared non-proliferation objective is through the preservation of the authority, impartiality and credibility of the safeguards system. In doing so, we shall ensure that obligations by member-states are met and that the Agency, for its part, discharges its functions within the established legal parameters, taking into account the different scopes and corresponding safeguards measures deriving from the different categories of agreements entered into by Member States.

Brazil has actively participated in recent discussions, in the Agency, about safeguards implementation at the State level, the so-called "State-level concept". We thank the IAEA Secretariat for presenting to the Board of Governors last September a report on the conceptualization and development of the concept, which offered the basis for a most energetic and constructive debate with the participation of many Member States. We welcome the fact that the Director General will produce, after consulting with Member States, a supplementary document for consideration and action by the Board of Governors before the fifty-eighth (2014) session of the General Conference, providing further clarification and information to address questions and issues raised.
Mr. Chairman,

My country is fully committed to international efforts aimed at preventing non-State actors from gaining access to nuclear weapons, as well as to related material and technology. It is our view that, to be consistent and ultimately effective, nuclear security must be articulated within the international community’s broader efforts to promote the goals of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the advancement of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As long as nuclear disarmament remains unrealized, measures aimed at securing the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities will be tinged with precariousness. We must also be aware that concerns with nuclear security cannot be invoked to preclude the legitimate right of States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Brazil is of the view that the IAEA is the key multilateral forum for discussing nuclear security-related matters and establishing standards and regulations in this field. In this context, my country firmly supported the convening by the IAEA of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held last July, in Vienna. Brazil was pleased with the outcome and grateful for the opportunity to engage with other Member-states for the purpose of advancing towards higher levels of nuclear security.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil expresses deep concern about recent revelations concerning the activities of a global network of electronic espionage aimed at indiscriminately intercepting communications and data from citizens, businesses and members of governments. Such unacceptable practices constitute serious threats to national sovereignty and individual rights, besides being incompatible with the democratic coexistence between friendly countries.

During the General Debate of this year’s General Assembly, H.E. Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil, stressed that "information and telecommunication technologies cannot be the new battlefield between States. Time is ripe to create the conditions to prevent cyberspace from being used as a weapon of war, through espionage, sabotage, and attacks against systems and infrastructure of other countries". Brazil cannot allow recurring illegal actions to take place as if they were normal, and we would like to work closely with all UN Members, as we have been doing with our Latin American partners, to properly address this issue.

During this 68th UNGA, Brazil will engage in and support initiatives that, while preserving the free flow of information and the right to privacy, are aimed at improving multilateral norms and principles regarding Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including on matters of governance.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil considers the use of chemical weapons heinous and unacceptable under any circumstance. My country deeply regretted the confirmation, by the UN Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons, of the use of these banned weapons in the 21st century, in Syrian territory.

In this context, the Brazilian Government welcomed the decision of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and to apply it immediately. As one of the original signatories of the Convention, Brazil expects the accession of Syria to the CWC will foster the universalization of this instrument and lead to the achievement of the goal of a world free of all chemical weapons.
The Brazilian Government also welcomed the important decisions reached at the OPCW and at the UNSC on September 27th. We are confident that the measures agreed will contribute significantly to giving new impetus to the search for a negotiated solution that puts an end to the spiral of violence in that country.

Brazil also firmly supports the holding of a second Geneva Conference as the most effective way for the international community to help the Syrian people fulfill its legitimate aspirations for peace, freedom and prosperity.

We would also like to highlight the success of the III Review Conference of the CWC, which decided on crucial matters and reassured the role of the OPCW as an unequivocal example of the success of multilateralism in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The positive achievements of the chemical weapons regime, nonetheless, are yet to be attained by the Biological Weapons Convention. Brazil continues to believe that confidence-building measures, although beneficial, cannot be a substitute for an effective and legally binding verification regime based on a Protocol to be negotiated by States Parties, aiming at universal implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the field of conventional arms, I would like to express Brazil's great satisfaction with the adoption and opening for signature of the Arms Trade Treaty - and, especially, with the great progress that we have achieved so far in the number of signatures and ratifications. We encourage all countries that have not yet signed the Treaty to consider joining it as soon as possible. We hope that the ATT will soon gather the required 50 ratifications for its entry into force. Having signed it on June 3rd, Brazil is currently undertaking the necessary measures to seek parliamentary approval for the ratification of the Treaty.

The ATT, as it stands now, is certainly not a finished task. Brazil considers that the Treaty could have been stronger and more effective if it had established a clear prohibition of arms transfers to unauthorized non-State actors; if it had required end user/ends user certificates for all transfers; and if ammunitions had been unequivocally included in the Treaty's scope. We look forward to filling these gaps in due time, within the review framework provided by the ATT itself.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, as a final remark, to reaffirm the commitment of the Brazilian delegation to the work of this First Committee in promoting a world free of weapons of mass destruction and based on more cooperative and friendly ties among Member States. As a country committed to multilateralism and to international law, Brazil will continue to strive for an international order guided by balanced, non-discriminatory and legally-binding obligations applicable to all. We are convinced that we must work to accomplish an international order that promotes peace, stability and well-being. We shall work to make cooperation prevail over confrontation.