



## POSITION PAPER

Country : BRAZIL

Committee : UNGA

Delegate : Vedanth Venkatesh

### **Agenda: Reducing Nuclear Danger**

#### **" On nuclear issues, Brazil is non-aligned even to the Non-Aligned Movement"**

Brazil is the largest country in South America and is one of founders of United Nations. It is home to some of the largest uranium deposits in the world. However, Brazil depends more on hydro-electric energy rather than on nuclear energy and doesn't seek to become a nuclear power.

There is no shortage of international commentary on Brazil's nuclear policy, especially its advanced nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear submarine program. But remarkably little attention is paid to Brazilian voices on these issues. Brazilians paint a picture of an emerging power seeking nuclear independence and searching for its role in the global order.

#### **The State of Brazil's Nuclear Program:**

- Currently, Brazil mines and mills uranium, produces nuclear fuel, operates two nuclear power plants, and is building a third.
- The Brazilian navy is key in the nuclear field. It developed uranium conversion and enrichment technology, and, since the late 1970s, it has been working on developing a nuclear-powered submarine.
- Rivalry with Argentina was among the drivers of Brazil's nuclear program. Today, the two countries work together in a bilateral nuclear safeguards regime to verify that our nuclear activities are peaceful.
- Brazil has not signed an IAEA Additional Protocol on nuclear safeguards, primarily because it is reluctant to accept additional non-proliferation obligations as long as

nuclear-weapon states do not achieve meaningful progress toward nuclear disarmament.

### **Brazil will forcefully defend its interests on the global nuclear scene:**

Our assertive nuclear policy is indicative of the tensions intensifying within the global nuclear order between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-weapon states, between disarmament and non-proliferation, and between non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We strongly criticize the unfairness of the nuclear order. Brazil remains committed to the reducing the nuclear danger that is encircling the world and this includes all countries with nuclear weapons including the N5 countries of the UNSC (UN Security Council).

### **Nuclear danger:**

Nuclear danger comes in two forms - nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. The main danger of the nuclear power plant in a conflict situation like the Russia -Ukraine conflict or in a natural disaster like a tsunami in Fukushima (Japan ) is that, in both cases, even without nuclear weapons, the affected country and the neighboring countries are in danger of accidental nuclear radiation that leads to massive death and destruction. The world also remembers the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986.

### **Brazil's response plan:**

We believe that it is possible for us to stay self-sufficient in our nuclear energy production. With one of the largest uranium reserves in the world, we could potentially use domestically-enriched uranium to cover all of our nuclear fuel needs. But after the Fukushima disaster in 2011, the Brazilian government created a response plan that includes increased safety inspections, checks and guidelines at the existing nuclear plants to avoid similar disasters in the country. Plans regarding construction of the new plants were re-evaluated to incorporate the increased focus on safety.

While we should not only get rid of nuclear weapons, we also need to find nuclear power plant alternatives to reduce the nuclear danger to mankind. This should be done in a phased manner, so that the future generations can live in peace. Our commitment to next generations is to bring heaven on earth, not nuclear annihilation!