



**General Assembly | First Committee**

**General Debate**

**Statement by H. E. Ambassador Guilherme Patriota**

**Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament**

New York, 9 October 2018

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your assumption of office in the First Committee. Brazil associates itself with the statement by El Salvador on behalf of the CARICOM and with the statement by South Africa for the New Agenda Coalition.

Brazil welcomes the Agenda for Disarmament announced by the Secretary-General.

It offers a pathway for dealing with the human tragedy provoked by uncontrolled and unwarranted flows of conventional weapons, wreaking havoc in places where peace and sustainable development are most needed.

It provides a framework for confronting the risks associated with the weaponization of emerging technologies. There are new such weapons in the making, described by the acronym LAWS, programmed to kill and destruct, that can self-learn, challenging the laws of humanity and the dictates of public conscience.

But first and foremost, the UNSG's view on disarmament to save humanity places the right emphasis and provides a balanced perspective on the existential threat that continues to be posed by weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. And we are fortunate that the right tone was struck in calling to responsibility and action states that develop and possess these WMDs which pose the greatest threat to human survival by their mere existence.

In 2018 we complete 40 years of the Special Session on Disarmament of the General Assembly. Its landmark outcome document is still the most important statement of the members of the United Nations on all disarmament matters, and we should pay heed to the solid consensus that it reflects and the foundational nature of its agreed content as we face the challenges of today.

We have made important strides since SSOD-I, but Brazil is particularly proud to have been one of the proponents of the conference which adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear

Weapons, and is honored to have been the first country to sign. Our ratification process is underway. The fast pace of new signatures and ratifications has surpassed our expectations. The TPNW is an integral part of international law and of the rules-based disarmament regime. It has come to stay as perhaps the most effective of measures towards the goal, shared by us all, of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with appreciation that after years of paralysis, the Conference on Disarmament has been able to conduct substantive work in 2018 in the context of four subsidiary bodies, whose reports were adopted by consensus. While a comprehensive and balanced program of work remains challenging, we believe that the progress this year is an important step in this direction.

We hope the UNSG in his budget outline, and appropriate UN bodies will be sensitive to the need for strengthened human and budgetary support to UNODA Geneva and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research - UNIDIR, so that they can meet the increased demand of the CD and other disarmament conventions.

The experience of coordinating the subsidiary body on PAROS was for me particularly gratifying, and the fact that we got agreement on a significant report reflects positively upon the spirit that prevailed during these deliberations. Hopefully, we can make further progress to ensure space exploration evolves peacefully and to the benefit of all on earth.

Brazil has supported the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on elements for an international legally binding instrument on PAROS, which I also have the honor to chair. I will report on progress by the Group during the thematic debate of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We reaffirm the crucial role of the NPT in the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. It is incumbent on all Parties to engage constructively to reach a successful outcome for the current review cycle.

As a country committed to the NPT and its review mechanism, Brazil cannot disguise its frustration with the failure, so far, to convene 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 in the 2010 Action Plan. We must redress this situation.

A member of the Tlatelolco Treaty, Brazil will continue supporting the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones around the world. We also take pride in having developed, with Argentina, a successful model of regional cooperation and confidence-building represented by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC).

The entry into force of the CTBT is the only legally binding assurance against the recurrence of nuclear testing. The Treaty was negotiated and adopted as part of a wider framework leading to nuclear disarmament. We must stop the continued development and modernization of nuclear weapons through subcritical testing and computer simulations which can be construed as violations of the letter and spirit of the CTBT and a breach of NPT obligations.

Brazil is encouraged by the latest developments in the dialogue between the United States and North Korea, as well as between North and South Korea, and by the important commitments announced at the Singapore and Panmunjom summits and subsequent high-level meetings.

On the JCPOA, Brazil recalls there is no alternative to a diplomatic, negotiated solution to issues related to Iran's nuclear program, however sensitive or challenging. The JCPOA is generally considered a landmark agreement that put critically important players on a path of greater clarity and reduced tensions with respect to their disarmament commitments and actions.

Rampant malicious and offensive use of ICTs is a matter of utmost concern. Cyberattacks cannot be condoned, and we can no longer countenance unchecked behavior in the cybersphere without putting our shared values of peace, security, democracy and human rights in peril.

We support a mandate to carry relevant work forward in this domain, in the UN, through mechanisms as representative and inclusive as possible, and in a manner that will not prejudge or preclude different positions from being expressed and considered.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil, Austria and Chile have proposed a mandate for the CCW to establish a legally binding positive obligation with regard to human control of autonomous weapons systems.

Brazil signed the Arms Trade Treaty on the first day, and we are pleased to announce that our instrument of ratification has been deposited last August.

Brazil unequivocally and vehemently condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances. We are concerned with the continued reports of chemical weapons use, particularly in the Syrian conflict, but would caution investigations of violations need to be robust, balanced and impartial. The implementation of a Special Office for Attribution will therefore demand further and more elaborate discussions concerning its mandate, structure and working methods ahead of the upcoming CWC Review Conference.

Finally, my delegation insists the best path to strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention is to gradually build up its institutional framework. The establishment of an Organization for the convention and the negotiation of a binding verification regime would provide effective means to deter and counter the threat of the use of biological weapons, both from State and non-State actors.

I thank you.