Nuclear disarmament verification

Submission by Brazil to the Secretary-General Report requested under resolution 71/67

Brazil supports the establishment of nuclear disarmament verification mechanisms under strict and effective international control. Disarmament verification initiatives will help us achieve real progress towards the ultimate goal of freeing the world from nuclear weapons.

Bearing this objective in mind, Brazil has been participating in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification. Brazil also welcomed the establishment of a group of governmental experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament pursuant General Assembly Resolution 71/67.

Such initiatives are confidence-building measures of great importance to create synergies between Nuclear Weapons States and these under the nuclear umbrella and Non-Nuclear Weapons States for the full implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

One example of a successful confidence-building measure that could be replicated is the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) which is based on the principle of "neighbors watching neighbors".

Brazil understands that the IAEA should have a central role in the implementation of any kind of multilateral disarmament verification mechanism, not only because of its unparalleled expertise safeguarding nuclear programs but also due to its legal authority in this domain, according to Article 3.B.1 of its Statute.

Brazil is of the view that the multilateralization of disarmament verification is required for the necessary transparency and irreversibility of the process. A multilateral and impartial organization should be present in all phases of disarmament operations, as it grants legitimacy and efficacy to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Previous technical arrangements should not be an obstacle to achieve political goals on nuclear disarmament negotiations. Although recognizing the value of technical initiatives, Brazil is convinced that decisive political commitments are necessary to overcome the complex challenges leading to nuclear disarmament.