

1st Meeting of States Parties of the
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Vienna, Austria, 21-23 June, 2022

Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Flávio Soares Damico
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Thank you, Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor in the General debate, I would like to start my intervention by congratulating you, Mr. President, Ambassador Kmentt, on your election. I also wish to extend our sincere appreciation to you and your dedicated team for your tireless, passionate, and very successful work.

The success of this Meeting of States Parties derives directly from your consistent efforts dating back to March 2021 when the preparatory process was initiated.

Mr. President, Ambassador Kmentt,

The TPNW breaks new ground as the first multilateral agreement that comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons. By bringing the most devastating weapons of mass destruction on par with chemical and biological weapons, already under legally binding prohibitions, the Treaty closes a legal gap in the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Moreover, it also brings to the fore the long-neglected issue of the humanitarian consequences of testing and using nuclear weapons.

The Treaty is fully compatible with and complements existing international agreements on nuclear weapons – particularly the NPT, the CTBT and the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free-zones.

Brazil participated in the process that led to the adoption of the TPNW since its very beginning, having attended the first three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons – as well as the one held earlier this week – and was an active participant in the negotiations of the Treaty.

On 20 September 2017, Brazil was the first country to sign the TPNW. Its text is currently under consideration of the Brazilian Congress with a view to its ratification.

Therefore Brazil is honored to participate as an observer in this historic first meeting of States Parties of the TPNW.

Mr. President,

Beyond the imperative set forth in the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988, which determines that nuclear energy shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, Brazil's long-standing commitment to international disarmament and non-proliferation regime has translated itself into a broad framework of bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties.

At the bilateral level, Brazil and Argentina adopted in 1991 the Guadalajara Agreement that set up ABACC – the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials.

In the same year, the two countries, ABACC and the IAEA signed the Quadripartite Agreement, an innovative and pioneering arrangement for the application of bilateral and multilateral nuclear safeguards that last year celebrated three decades of successful operation.

At the regional level, Brazil is a party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated region.

Finally, Brazil ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1998, and has since then spared no efforts in seeking to correct the NPT's built-in asymmetries and to bring to fruition the disarmament obligations enshrined in its Article VI.

Mr. President,

The prevailing trends of the international environment and the dire standing of disarmament diplomacy are source of profound concern. Many years of paralysis in the core mechanisms of the disarmament regime coupled with a crisis involving the main nuclear powers places us at a critical juncture. It is time to re-energize diplomatic and multilateral efforts to bring us away from the brink of catastrophe.

This meeting is a promising first step in that direction.

Thank you, Mr President.