

**"Symposium on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology:  
Towards the 2015 NPT Review Conference and beyond "**

Opening remarks by

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Permanent Representative of Brazil to the IAEA and CTBTO

Ambassadors,  
Representatives from permanent missions and embassies,  
IAEA staff members,  
Members of the academy,  
Representatives from NGOs,  
Members of the press,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to join Ambassador Kitano in thanking all the speakers and participants for being here.

From the very beginning, when the Permanent Missions of Japan and of Brazil started discussing the convening of this symposium, we were of the opinion that it would constitute an important opportunity to raise awareness about the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the crucial work developed by the IAEA in this regard. In our view, this was all the more relevant as we approach the NPT Review Conference – since a wide array of activities in this field are relevant to Article IV of the treaty – and also in the context of other important meetings that are going to take place, like the COP 21.

Organizing the symposium, though, was certainly not only about awareness raising. We expect that making more information available about this important subject will contribute, as appropriate, to the wider application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The areas where nuclear technology can be applied are as diverse as one's imagination. Every day, new nuclear techniques are developed in very different areas, making it possible to complete tasks that otherwise could not be accomplished through other means. However, there is often a lack of knowledge about the possible applications of nuclear energy.

In my view, to be able to enjoy the many benefits derived from nuclear technology, it is necessary first to raise awareness, among authorities and civil society, about its day-to-day applications. Many people do not realize it, but nuclear energy has many important applications in areas

that are not so well-known, such as water management, pest control, products sterilization and food preservation, to mention just a few.

Those who are familiar with the IAEA's work know the fundamental role that the Agency has in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as enshrined in its Statute. But other people, institutions or governments might not be equally aware of what the Agency does in this field. As we will have a chance to see today, through the work developed by the departments of Technical Cooperation, Nuclear Sciences and Applications and Nuclear Energy, the IAEA makes nuclear technology available for peaceful purposes in many countries in areas such as human health, nutrition, agriculture, industrial applications and energy, among several others.

Brazil places great importance on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, from medicine, the production of radioisotopes, radiopharmaceuticals and radioactive sources, to the nuclear fuel cycle, power generation, industry, agriculture and environment. At present, Brazil develops six national technical cooperation projects through the AIEA TC programme in health, water and environment, waste management and nuclear safety. My country also takes part in 18 regional projects, 9 of which are conducted under the ARCAL agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are convinced that nuclear technology can play a very important role with respect to the post-2015 Development Agenda. As highlighted in the Rio+20 outcome document, we all acknowledge the need to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages. The applications of nuclear energy certainly have an impact on these three dimensions, as we will see during the presentations and discussions today. Nuclear applications in health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water and environment, and energy contribute to eradicating poverty, saving lives, improving health and education and having gains in productivity.

I am confident that by the end of the symposium we will have learned more in regard to the enormous benefits that nuclear energy can have in a number of areas, about the activities that the IAEA has been implementing and relevant national and regional experiences. I wish you all a productive symposium and, once again, I would like to thank everyone for being here.