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ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/104 CONCERNING
THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL I OF THE
TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA
(TREATY OF TLAHELCO)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 5 October 1990 from the Permanent Representatives
of Argentina and Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement which Argentina and Brazil, as observers at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, issued at that Conference, which was recently held at Geneva, from 20 August to 14 September 1990 (see annex).

We would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 31, 45 and 56.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jorge VAZQUEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Argentina to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement issued by Argentina and Brazil at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva from 20 August to 14 September 1990

Brazil and Argentina reiterate their firm commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to the objective of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all forms and modalities. This has been constantly reflected in the statements of their highest authorities, in the policies and acts of their Governments and in their strict observance of the relevant national and international legal instruments.

Argentina and Brazil welcome the positive trends in the relationship between the two main nuclear-weapon States and their respective allies, which are making it possible to envisage the adoption of steps towards the slowdown and cessation of the nuclear-arms race and towards nuclear disarmament.

At the same time, Brazil and Argentina would like to stress the fundamental importance of the political will to promote dialogue and understanding among all members of the international community in order to lessen tension and to achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this regard, Argentina and Brazil are proud to point out that the spirit of co-operation has prevailed among the countries of South America for many decades.

It is particularly noteworthy that, for a number of years now, Brazil and Argentina have been actively engaged in a process of political co-operation and economic integration, as attested, among other initiatives, by the co-ordination of their nuclear policies. To date, there have been seven meetings of the Working Group and of the Permanent Bilateral Committee on Nuclear Co-operation, held alternately in each country in order to co-ordinate policies and exchange information on their respective programmes in the nuclear field. One important aspect of these meetings is the visits by high authorities and technical experts to each other's nuclear installations, research centres and other facilities.

The following are examples of areas of ongoing co-operation between the two countries: nuclear safety, mutual assistance in the event of nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies, research reactors fuel, safeguard concepts and methods, fast-breeder reactor project, exchange of information on materials and techniques, industrial co-operation, etc.

This increasing co-operation has also been reflected in the work of the delegations of Argentina and Brazil in multilateral and regional forums, as underscored by their co-ordinated initiatives in the Conference on Disarmament, in the International Atomic Energy Agency and in the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

Brazil and Argentina remain deeply committed to the principles stated by the international community in General Assembly resolution 2028 (XX), which set forth

the basic tenets of a multilateral treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Accordingly, Argentina and Brazil respect the letter and the spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The full implementation of this Treaty is currently the subject of an active and intense exchange of views among interested parties.

Brazil and Argentina are deeply convinced of the value of their individual and joint contributions, in the past as well as in the present, to achieving the goal of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its dimensions. In their view, increasing co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and the mutual assurances thus generated are the most effective way to attain that goal.

Argentina and Brazil respect the position of those countries which have exercised their sovereign right to accede to international instruments which, in the view of such States, would foster those objectives. Brazil and Argentina expect that their own choice of ways and means to contribute to the same goal will likewise be respected.
