

STATEMENT OF H.E. MINISTER ALOYSIO NUNES FERREIRA AT THE  
CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR  
“TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS: CHALLENGES  
AND PERSPECTIVES”

Brasília, 7-8 December

Itamaraty Palace – Sala San Tiago Dantas

Distinguished Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Brazilian Government,  
Distinguished Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear  
Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Ambassador Luiz Filipe  
de Macedo Soares,

Distinguished Undersecretary for Multilateral Political Affairs, Europe and North  
America, Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães,

Distinguished Director of the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation, Ambassador Sérgio  
Moreira Lima,

Distinguished President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs  
and former High Representative of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs,  
Ambassador Sérgio Duarte,

Distinguished Secretaries of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and  
Control of Nuclear Materials, Dr Marco Marzo and Dr Sergio Somelsky,

Distinguished speakers and other participants,

It is with great satisfaction that I give these closing remarks to the seminar "Towards  
a world free of nuclear weapons - challenges and prospects".

This seminar, which brought together at this House some of the most respected  
personalities in their respective fields and counted on the participation of  
Governments, academia and civil society, symbolizes the openness of Itamaraty to  
discuss topics of high relevance, including public policies in the nuclear sector.

Itamaraty will always be open to initiatives of this kind, as they are in absolute  
consonance with the pluralism and multilateralism that mark Brazilian foreign policy.

The relevance of the topic of nuclear disarmament on the international agenda is noticeable. As clear evidence of this, we can point out to the adoption by the United Nations last July of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the organization "International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons."

The Treaty was a victory for the United Nations and for multilateralism - both of which enshrine the understanding among states as the most appropriate and legitimate way of finding solutions to global problems.

The international community came together to fill this gap and the end result is the text of the Treaty, after a negotiating process, whose call and success – allow me to say – would not have been possible without the leadership of a group formed by Brazil, South Africa, Austria, Ireland, Mexico and Nigeria.

Today, in New York, there will be a new signing ceremony of the Treaty. President Michel Temer was the first authority to sign it. We invite all States to participate in this process and join the 53 countries that have already signed up to the Ban Treaty.

There are other dates to celebrate. Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). ABACC was the subject of the first session of this seminar and is one of the greatest diplomatic assets of the Brazil and Argentina bilateral cooperation.

Last February, we joined our regional neighbors at the celebrations in Mexico City of the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, also known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. A pioneering initiative, the Treaty demonstrates through the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) concrete expression of the region's commitment to the ban of nuclear weapons.

I thank you all for your participation in this seminar. As Foreign Minister, I am proud of the contributions of my country and of my region to the debate on nuclear disarmament. Rest assured that Brazil will maintain its commitment to building a peaceful and disarmed world.

Finally, I thank FUNAG, the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Austrian Embassy in Brasilia for their support.

Enjoy the rest of your afternoon in Brasilia.

Thank you.