



Conference on Disarmament
Plenary Meeting – 21 January 2025

Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer
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Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Leonardo Bencini, on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, as we begin our deliberations of its 2025 session. I reiterate Brazil's full support for your stewardship during this crucial period, where we should lay the groundwork for the substantive discussions that lie ahead of us this year.

On a personal note, I also thank you for your kind words and for your warm welcome to me, as I participate for the first time at the Conference on Disarmament in my capacity as Brazil's Permanent Representative to this body.

20 years ago, as a young Counsellor in our Mission in Geneva, I attended sessions of the CD. At the time, the only issue being discussed was the absence of consensus on the agenda. I regret to notice that the situation has not changed much ever since. The only difference is that back then, we met at the beautiful Council Room of the Palais des Nations, adorned by the works of Spanish painter Josep María Sert – whose paintings, by the way, also decorate the dining room of the official residence of the Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires. I hope that we will be able to return to the historic seat of the Conference soon, after the renovation of the premises is concluded. That way, at least a modicum of reform will be achieved in the CD.

Mr. President,

We meet at a time of profound international tension, marked by a multiplication of conflicts, erosion of trust among nations, and weakening of multilateral disarmament and arms control instruments.

We cannot ignore the grave risks that unchecked strategic competition and deepening global polarization pose to international peace and security. The accelerating pace of nuclear modernization programs, the integration of emerging technologies such as AI into weapons systems, and the increasing risk of weaponization of outer space create unprecedented dangers. When combined with the erosion of arms control frameworks and communication channels, these developments significantly increase the risk of miscalculation and unintended escalation.

We are witnessing the emergence of a new and more dangerous military-technological paradigm at precisely the moment when diplomatic mechanisms for managing such risks are at their weakest.

Against this bleak background, we find some solace on the agreement reached last year in the CD to establish subsidiary bodies that should allow for substantive, structured discussions over the course of the 2025 session.

However, we deeply regret that the Conference remains unable to adopt a programme of work for substantive negotiations, after a hiatus of nearly 30 years. Brazil reiterates that the CD must once again fulfill its mandate as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

In this regard, while we recognize the importance of consensus as a principle that safeguards the supreme national interests of all Member States, we are concerned that its excessive application has led it to devolve into an instrument of paralysis. The consensus rule was thought as a way to foster meaningful dialogue and compromise, not serve as a “de facto” veto power exercised at the expense of the international community's broader security interests.

We therefore call upon all delegations to demonstrate the utmost flexibility in our deliberations and to exercise this rule in a manner consistent with the spirit in which it was conceived.

Mr. President,

The 2025 session of the Conference on Disarmament begins at a moment in which the state of international peace and security is undergoing profound changes.

The substantive discussions planned for this year should serve as a means to take stock of these transformations and to lay the building blocks for a more comprehensive negotiating mandate.

Brazil is therefore ready to join consensus on the draft agenda you have proposed.

By the same token, Brazil looks forward to a decision on the resumption of the subsidiary bodies established last year.

Regarding the work ahead in our subsidiary bodies, Brazil looks forward to constructive and focused discussions across all mandated areas.

On Subsidiary Body 1, we hope for renewed attention to the glaring and urgent need for progress towards nuclear disarmament, especially in view of the upcoming 11th Review Conference of the NPT, to be held next year.

Regarding Subsidiary Body 2, Brazil hopes for progress towards the long-standing goal of starting negotiations on a treaty on fissile materials. In this regard, we intend to build upon Brazil's proposal for a framework Convention, as a way to bridge the well-known divergences on the issue of the scope of a future treaty.

As for Subsidiary Body 3, on the prevention on an arms race in outer space (PAROS), we hope that its discussions will go hand-in-hand with the *Open-Ended Working Group on PAROS in all its aspects* established last year by the UN General Assembly. Both fora should aim at a comprehensive and balanced consideration of all threat vectors relevant to space security, and to advancing towards the shared objective of legally binding instrument on the issue.

Regarding Subsidiary Body 4, Brazil believes that progress in the provision of negative security assurances is one of the least controversial issues on the agenda of the CD. While NSAs would not be a substitute for nuclear disarmament, they would be a tangible improvement to the security environment, especially for non-nuclear weapon States.

As for Subsidiary Body 5, Brazil hopes that it will serve as a platform to discuss the transformational effects of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are having on the disarmament, arms control and international security landscape.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Brazil will continue to engage actively and constructively in our deliberations, guided by our conviction that dialogue and multilateralism remain indispensable tools for achieving a more secure world.

Thank you, Mr. President.