



# General Assembly

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## Eightieth session

### **Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the eightieth session**

### **Observer status for the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials in the General Assembly**

### **Letter dated 7 August 2025 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to jointly request the inclusion in the agenda of the eightieth session of the Assembly of a supplementary item entitled “Observer status for the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials in the General Assembly”.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are enclosed. Attention is also drawn to the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, of 1991.\*

In that regard, having fulfilled all the necessary requirements, we should like to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly

(Signed) Francisco Fabián **Tropepi**  
Permanent Representative of Argentina  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sérgio França **Danese**  
Permanent Representative of Brazil  
to the United Nations

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\* See [CD/1117](#).



## **Annex I**

### **Explanatory memorandum**

#### **I. Introduction**

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials is an intergovernmental organization established by the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, signed on 18 July 1991. Pursuant to article VII of the Agreement, the mission of the Agency is to verify that all nuclear materials and facilities in both countries are used for exclusively peaceful purposes, through the administration and implementation of the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials. In accordance with article VI of the Agreement, the Agency is an organization with international legal personality. Also in 1991, in exercise of its right under article VIII of the Agreement to enter into international agreements, the Agency signed the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the implementation of safeguards, known as the Quadripartite Agreement. It should be noted that that Agreement fulfils the obligations set out in article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in article 13 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), in Argentina and Brazil.

Accordingly, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency is an intergovernmental organization that contributes to the achievement of a safer world, in accordance with the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations.

#### **II. Relevant facts**

The existence of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency is a clear demonstration of the political will of the two countries to provide transparency regarding their nuclear programmes, thus creating an atmosphere of mutual trust and helping to enhance regional and international security. It reflects the importance of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of both countries; and the understanding that the benefits of all these applications of nuclear technology should be accessible to all States.

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency owes its success in part to its technical team, the use of state-of-the-art equipment and ongoing coordination with the national authorities of Brazil and Argentina, as well as with IAEA.

The work carried out by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency through a team of highly qualified inspectors of both nationalities who work in coordination with IAEA creates an innovative mechanism that has no parallel in the world when it comes to reciprocal inspections. Given the robust nature of the said verification model, the nuclear programmes of both countries are subjected to the highest standards of transparency, demonstrated by the fact that Argentina and Brazil are among the countries that undergo the highest number of inspections in their territory.

Each year, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency carries out more than 100 inspections, in 76 facilities and other places under safeguards. This is the product of the professionalism of the inspectors, and of the effective and efficient structure of the Agency.

<i>Type of facility</i>	<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fuel conversion and manufacture	9*	2	11
Uranium enrichment	2	3	5
Power reactors	5*	3*	8
Research reactors/critical and subcritical units	6*	7*	13
Others (research and development facilities, deposits, etc.)	29	10*	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>76</b>

\* One under construction

In existence for more than 30 years, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency has achieved a high technical capacity and has made concrete contributions to the efficient and effective implementation of nuclear safeguards, with a view to providing assurances as to the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy in Argentina and Brazil. An example thereof is the development of the Cristallini method of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency, an innovative technique for the sampling of uranium hexafluoride in uranium conversion and enrichment plants, which is less intrusive and more economical than traditional techniques.

### III. Historical background

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency was established following a long historical confidence-building process and the development of a strategic alliance between Brazil and Argentina in the nuclear sector. In that regard, the importance of the political process that led to the establishment of this international entity for the control of nuclear materials is unequalled in Brazil-Argentina relations.

The establishment of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency represented a tangible and effective contribution to the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime and constitutes a reference of best practice in the area of safeguards, as the General Assembly acknowledged in its resolution [76/52](#).

In addition to representing a milestone in bilateral relations, the establishment of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency also had positive effects at the wider regional level, by paving the way for the consolidation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### IV. Membership and structure

The Brazilian-Argentine Agency is composed of the Commission, its management organ, and the secretariat, its executive organ, which is made up of technical and administrative sections.

The Commission establishes the policy directives that guide the work of the secretariat, oversees the activities of the secretariat and is responsible for bringing to the attention of the Parties any anomalies that could occur in the context of the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials. The Commission is made up of four members, two of whom are designated by the Government of Brazil and two by the Government of Argentina.

The function of the secretariat is to carry out the necessary activities for the implementation of the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and to represent the Brazilian-Argentine Agency before the national

authorities of both countries and before third parties. The secretariat is composed of four technical sections, each of which is led by one official of Argentina and one official of Brazil, and two administrative sections.

The verification system calls for a cross inspections regime through which Brazilian inspectors inspect Argentine facilities and vice versa, thus helping to ensure impartiality of results. The Brazilian-Argentine Agency has approximately 50 inspectors from each country, who are part of the Agency when performing the functions assigned to them by the secretariat in relation to the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials.

The planning and evaluation section is responsible for setting out safeguard criteria, developing safeguard methods to be applied in the different types of nuclear facilities, proposing inspection procedures and evaluating the results of verification activities. It should inform the secretariat of any anomalies detected and, in such event, propose measures to be taken. It is also responsible for coordinating technical meetings with the national authorities and with IAEA.

The operations section is responsible for the planning and execution of safeguard inspections. In addition to implementing inspection procedures, it gives instructions and provides the necessary support to inspectors with regard to specific activities to be carried out during inspections. The section is also responsible for updating the inspections database.

The accounting and control of nuclear materials section processes and analyses any information relating to accounting of nuclear materials received from the national authorities of the two countries and that said authorities obtain from hearings held during safeguard inspections. The accounting information so gathered is transmitted electronically, in a secure manner, to IAEA. The section also coordinates training and capacity-building activities for inspectors.

The technical support section is responsible for monitoring samples of nuclear material taken during inspections and sending them to laboratories in both countries for analysis. It also evaluates measurement, containment and surveillance techniques, proposing new techniques when necessary. The section is responsible for providing information on the calibration, maintenance and availability of equipment used by inspectors for safeguard missions and those found in nuclear facilities.

The institutional relations section is responsible for coordinating institutional action with the national authorities of both countries, as well as with the Commission and with institutions that have cooperation agreements with the Brazilian-Argentine Agency. It is also responsible for supporting the secretariat in technical cooperation processes and in the handling of nuclear matters, in particular those relating to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear safeguards.

It should be noted that the Brazilian-Argentine Agency has signed cooperation agreements with IAEA, the European Atomic Energy Community, the Korea Institute of Nuclear Non-proliferation and Control, the Department of Energy of the United States of America and the European Safeguards Research and Development Association.

The administration and finance section is responsible for administrative, budgetary and human resources management and manages the infrastructure requirements of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency. It also coordinates the infrastructure management system with the technical sections.

## V. Reasons and legal criteria

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the Brazilian-Argentine Agency has been a robust organization for more than 30 years.

In addition to marking a milestone in bilateral relations, the establishment of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency also had positive effects at the wider regional level by helping to consolidate the goal of a Latin America and a Caribbean free of nuclear weapons. At the global level, it represented a tangible and effective contribution to the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime and a reference of best practice in the area of safeguards. Through their common nuclear policy, Argentina and Brazil are committed to continuously updating the Agency.

In 2021, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency, the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution [76/52](#), in which it acknowledged that the Agency had proved itself as an innovative and effective bilateral confidence-building mechanism, with positive effects for peace and security at the subregional and regional levels, and as a reference of best practice in nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation verification.

The goals pursued by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency are designed to implement the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, to promote cooperation in maintaining international peace and security. Since 2019, the annual activities of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme have included a visit by fellows to the Agency, helping to disseminate the major contributions of the Agency to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Accordingly, and reiterating that the Brazilian-Argentine Agency has international legal personality, in accordance with article VI of the Agreement between Argentina and Brazil, it should be noted that the Agency meets the legal criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426, of 9 December 1994, in which the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, decided that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organization whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly.

Being granted observer status in the General Assembly would bring multiple benefits to the Brazilian-Argentine Agency. First, it will reinforce its role in the United Nations system and the possibilities of cooperation and collaboration with the system on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, it should be noted that the Brazilian-Argentine Agency was granted observer status (intergovernmental organization) before IAEA in 2011. That represented a milestone for the Agency since such participation had only been accorded in the past to European Atomic Energy Community and helped to strengthen the ties between the Agency and IAEA, giving it greater visibility and presence before the latter.

It is also necessary to recall that the European Atomic Energy Community has had observer status in the General Assembly since 2011. Granting the same status to the Brazilian-Argentine Agency would be further recognition of the important role played by regional nuclear safeguard mechanisms.

## Annex II

### Draft resolution

#### **Observer status for the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [76/52](#), of 6 December 2021,

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials,

1. *Decides* to invite the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
  2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.
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