



## **BRAZIL**

### **REGIONAL REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE GENEVA DECLARATION**

Statement by Ambassador Pedro Motta Pinto Coelho,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva, 8 July 2014

Mr. Chairman,  
Ambassadors,  
Renowned Researchers,

On behalf of H.E. the Brazilian Minister of External Relations, Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, I would like to congratulate the Government of Switzerland, as well as the representatives of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration, for convening this edition of the Regional Review Conference of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

As a member of the "core group" of the Geneva Declaration, Brazil has supported the initiative of convening Regional Conferences prior to a possible Global Review Conference. The first edition of the review conferences was held in Guatemala between April 28 and 30. In light of our positive experience in Guatemala, we are confident that we have supported the right decision.

I am glad to share with you that the conference in Guatemala proved to be an opportunity to further deepen a regional approach to the issue of armed violence and development. In Guatemala we emphasized the importance of investing in social and development policies in order to tackle armed violence. It is clear that widespread violence imposes heavy social and economic burdens on societies, claiming lives and futures. However, one must not neglect the structural causes of violence if we are committed to the task of improving the lives of people around the world. Poverty, economic exclusion, lack of education, poor (or no) access to basic public services, youth unemployment, discrimination, gender issues, among others, must be taken into account as important drivers of violence in many scenarios.

In Guatemala we criticized linear approaches that only emphasize the impacts of violence on the development of a given country. Instead, we agreed with the idea that security and development are mutually reinforcing objectives that should be translated into policies that integrate aspects of participation, prevention, and greater social justice. Moreover, we have stressed that, whenever

necessary and upon request, national States should be able to count on the international community to advance policies related to their own specificities. The time of "one-size-fits all" policies should be left for good.

The Regional Review Conferences in Guatemala and Geneva have been convened in an important moment for the international community. As you are all aware, in 2015 we are bound to define the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs will be based on "The Future We Want", the consensus outcome of the Rio+20 Conference which sets out that the notion of sustainable development encompasses three pillars: the social, the economic and the environmental, with poverty eradication at the center of our attention.

Discussions on the SDGs are already at full speed in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which concluded its 12th session in June 20. Proposals for the inclusion of governance and security goals in the Post-2015 Agenda have been discussed under "Focus area 16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions".

The last version of proposed goal 16 deals mostly with issues related to access to justice, legal empowerment of the poor, elimination of discriminatory institutions and policies, ensuring participation, transparency and accountability, as well as fighting crime and violence against children and marginalized groups. We believe such issues should be addressed from a positive perspective, emphasizing the promotion of social justice, reduction of inequality and the strengthening of institutions that allow voice, representation and effective participation of marginalized groups at the national level, and the same for developing countries at the international level.

In the last meeting of the Open Working Group in New York, Brazil proposed that issues related to violence, law enforcement and crime-fighting be addressed from a positive and preventive perspective, instead of advancing a repressive agenda. Therefore, the Post-2015 Agenda would not have a specific goal related to governance and security issues, but it would, nevertheless, comprise the general objective of creating more peaceful societies through the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development.

We are confident that this Regional Review Conference will provide many important examples of the successes and challenges of the participating Countries in issues related to armed violence and development. With this information and knowledge, we hope to improve the work of the "core group" of the Geneva Declaration.

The Brazilian Delegation wishes all of you a very productive Conference.

Thank you