

## **2005 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**Opening address by the President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference  
Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte  
New York, 2 May 2005**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Let my first words as President of this Conference convey my gratitude to the States Parties of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) for accepting Brazil's candidature to this post and for having entrusted to me the responsibility to steer our deliberations. I accept it humbly but also with the determination to pursue every avenue that may lead us to progress. As you know, since the III Preparatory Conference I have been engaged in a long process of consultations that has taken me to the four corners of the globe. This provided me with a deeper understanding of the issues at hand. We must achieve agreement on the outstanding procedural issues. I am confident that flexibility and understanding will prevail in this final stretch so that we may tackle- without delay the substantive questions which are the real subject matter of the Review Conference.**

**We are gathered here to review the operation of the most universal of all treaties in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Ours is a two-fold task: we are expected to look forward as well as backwards in order to evaluate the implementation of the commitments undertaken by States Parties under the Treaty and assure that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the instrument are being realized and will continue to be realized in the future.**

**This is the seventh occasion in which Parties of the NPT gather to discharge that responsibility. The international security situation has grown far more complex since the last Review Conference in 2000. New challenges to the hopes for a world free of weapons of mass destruction have arisen. The international community, and particularly the Parties to the NPT, must face this situation with determination and a sense of purpose.**

**Perceptions of lack of compliance with commitments entered into erode the trust of the Parties in the effectiveness of the Treaty. Divergent views on the best course to follow in order to strengthen the NPT and realize its objectives continue to shadow the perspectives for a more stable and predictable peace and security environment founded on the NPT. The emergence of terrorism as a tool of political extremism adds an even more worrisome element to this equation.**

**Agreements will only be effective and lasting if they address the security concerns of all their Parties and serve their legitimate interests. These considerations lie at the very center of the current debate on how to devise realistic ways to meet the old and new challenges that threaten the integrity and credibility of the set of rules and norms established by the NPT. To ignore or disregard them will sooner or later be detrimental to the sustainability of the current non-proliferation regime.**

**Perhaps more than ever, genuine cooperation, wisdom and enlightened statesmanship are needed to deal with today's security problems in the world. This Conference provides us with the opportunity to buttress confidence in the multilateral process and to find pathways to progress that can be acceptable to all Parties to the instrument and welcomed by the people of all nations.**

**The success – or failure – of our efforts in this Conference will affect the fate of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime and other security related instruments and initiatives. It will touch on the everyday lives of people in all countries and regions. It will shape a vital part of our own future. Let us hope history will judge positively the wisdom of our decisions.**

**I wish us all a constructive and fruitful work.**

**Thank you**