

Fourth Meeting

Geneva, 10-14 December 2007

Item 6 of the Provisional agenda

**Consideration of ways and means
to enhance national implementation,
including enforcement of national legislation,
strengthening of national institutions and
coordination among national law enforcement institutions**

**BRAZIL'S NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION OF DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT IN
MATTERS RELATED TO SENSITIVE ASSETS (PRONABENS)**

Submitted by Brazil

Objectives

1. Pronabens is the Brazilian National Program for the Promotion of Dialogue Between the Private Sector and the Government in Matters Related to Sensitive Assets. It is the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Cabinet of Institutional Security of the Presidency of the Republic (GSI/PR), and it consists of technical visits to industries and state-owned companies whose activities are related to sensitive, dual-use assets and technologies.
2. It has the following goals:
 - (i) To inform businessmen on existing government controls in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to stress the importance of working with the Government at a national level.
 - (ii) To increase the quality of Brazilian companies and their performance in the world market;
 - (iii) To identify and analyze the potential occurrence of any commercial activity that might be considered illegal and/or prohibited under the international mechanisms that regulate transfers (exports or imports) of sensitive products or controlled technologies. Some of the most important international instruments are: the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons (BWC); the Convention on

the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CCW); the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR); the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

- (iv) To publish and publicize the lists of sensitive goods currently in effect in Brazil;
- (v) To offer support and information to assist the deliberations and analyses of the Interministerial Commission for the Control of Export/Import of Sensitive Goods (CIBES);
- (vi) To help identify any implications of exports or imports in the above mentioned areas.

History

3. Throughout 2004 and the first half of 2005, the chemical industry was the main focus of Pronabens, since it was regarded at the time as the segment with the largest number of companies subject to controls of sensitive transfers, due to the fact that Brazil possesses the world's eighth largest chemical industry infrastructure. Along that period, Pronabens visited nearly all the companies that are subject to control of import and/or export activities as mandated by the CCW. Beginning on the second semester of 2005, Pronabens initiated its work with companies in the nuclear segment, in this case encompassing not only private companies, but public enterprises and research institutes as well.

4. Consolidating the technical visits, four national seminars were conducted, being the first two aimed at the chemical industry and the remaining two at the nuclear industry.

5. Since 2006, Pronabens has been developing strategies to deal with the biological sector.

Biological Sector

6. The emergence of the bioterrorism threat is a relevant concern of the international security community. It should not be invoked, however, in order to justify the extension, to new areas of biological studies, of restrictions which could negatively affect legitimate and peaceful transfers of knowledge, technologies and assets.

7. Thus, the first challenge faced by Pronabens' approach to Biological threats is the promotion, among an internal "audience", whose activities have been traditionally linked to peaceful and even humanitarian purposes, of familiarity with concerns about bioterrorism, and, in particular, with concepts present in the current international regimes of disarmament and non-proliferation.

8. Target Public of Pronabens:

- (i) Research Centers
- (ii) Bio-Industries
- (iii) Equipment producing industries
- (iv) Agricultural aviation (crop dusting activities) • Universities

- (v) Microorganisms banks

Specific objectives related to BWC

9. Specific objectives related to BWC include promoting national awareness on the consequences, for the academic community and the national bio-industry, of Brazil's commitment to the BWC and to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

10. Pronabens also aims at gathering information, with the targeted enterprises, regarding the following aspects:

- (i) Eventual difficulties faced by institutions in accessing sensitive goods and/or technologies;
- (ii) Existing controls, specially regarding Resolution 1540 and the BWC;
- (iii) (Elaboration), involving all interested parties, of the national list for the control of sensitive goods in the biological area;
- (iv) Consultations on the possible impacts of international regimes on the prospects of scientific-technological development and on the competitiveness of national industry.

Outcomes

11. The implementation of a comprehensive legal and operational framework for the control of sensitive biological assets has become the biggest challenge of Pronabens. It has turned into a tool of utmost importance in the construction of such controls. The visited enterprises and institutions, both in the public and private sectors, are now aware of the need and obligation to establish controls in order to comply with the UNSC Resolution 1540.

12. One of the main outcomes of this successful interaction with the industry and the academic community was the establishment of a national list of Export Control of Sensitive Goods in the Biological Area, which was elaborated with the collaboration of several experts of entities visited by Pronabens.

Future Actions

13. In the year of 2008, Pronabens intends to maintain its technical visits. Following the example of its past chemical and nuclear-oriented projects, Pronabens will also hold the V National Seminar of Control Sensitive Goods, specifically aimed towards biological controls.
