URUGUAY

INTERVENCION DE LA DELEGACION PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS EN NOMBRE DEL MERCOSUR Y ESTADOS ASOCIADOS

MINISTRO CONSEJERO FEDERICO PERAZZA

PRIMERA COMISION DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE NACIONES UNIDAS DEBATE TEMATICO SOBRE ARMAS QUIMICAS


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STATEMENT BY

MINISTER COUNSELLOR FEDERICO PERAZZA

FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THEMATIC DEBATE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 22, 2007
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of MERCOSUR and associated States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay.

MERCOSUR and associated States wish to reiterate our commitment to the aims and purposes of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. We also support its full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation and urge continued efforts to achieve its universality.

In this connection, we welcome the increasing participation of States in the Convention. One hundred and eighty-two (182) States, representing 98 per cent of the world’s population, are now parties to the Convention and we congratulate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on its efforts to achieve universal adherence to the Convention and its implementation at the national level. We urge OPCW to continue to work towards achieving this goal and call on those States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

There is need for greater cooperation between States parties and for renewed efforts on their part to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention through the development of mechanisms to promote collaboration by the developed countries in order to create and promote national measures and to fulfill the obligations emanating from the Convention by promoting the development of national chemical industries for peaceful uses.

Mr. Chairman,

The participants at the recent high-level meeting to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention included the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, and the Director-General of OPCW, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, among other distinguished persons. The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight the progress made over the past ten years and to show that genuine disarmament is possible through collective action within the framework of our Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

Our countries do not possess chemical weapons or indeed installations for the production of this type of weapon. We wish to note in this regard, however, that the Convention guarantees the right of States parties to request and to receive
assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons. We reiterate our appeal to those countries that possess chemical weapons to comply with their obligations within the time frames laid down in the Convention and destroy their stockpiles.

Mr. Chairman,

MERCOSUR and associated States wish to reaffirm that the Convention is one of the key international legal instruments for channelling multilateral efforts aimed at the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and to the goal of achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international supervision, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you very much.