



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017**

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

DEBATE GENERAL

PRIMERA COMISION

**Intervención del Ministro Luis E. Cappagli
Representante Permanente Adjunto de la República Argentina
ante las Naciones Unidas**

*Nueva York, 2 de Octubre de 2002
Sírvese verificar contra lectura*

**UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

GENERAL DEBATE

FIRST COMMITTEE

**Statement by Minister Luis E. Cappagli
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic
to the United Nations**

*New York, October 2nd., 2002
Check against delivery*

MR. PRESIDENT

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR ELECTION TO GUIDE THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE. I CONGRATULATE ALSO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU, YOU CAN COUNT ON THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE DELEGATION OF ARGENTINA.

MR. PRESIDENT

TODAY MORE THAN EVER ARGENTINA MAINTAINS THAT THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SHOULD BE THE GOAL FOR THE FIRST DECADE OF THE XXI CENTURY. ONLY WITH MEASURES LIKE THIS WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO SET THE GROUND FOR MUTUALLY GUARANTEED SECURITY AS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.

THE REGIONAL DETERMINATION TO AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED BY ARGENTINA IN JULY 1996 IN THE "POLITICAL DECLARATION OF MERCOSUR, BOLIVIA AND CHILE AS A ZONE OF PEACE AND FREE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION". THIS DECLARATION STIMULATES AND FORTIFIES THE PERCEPTION OF SECURITY OF ALL STATES IN THE REGION AND AT THE SAME TIME CARRIES A CLEAR MESSAGE OF OUR COUNTRIES ABOUT OUR OBJECTIVES OF TRANSPARENCY, CO-OPERATION AND PEACE.

AT THE SUBREGIONAL LEVEL THE WORK OF THE BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINEAN AGENCY ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS (ABACC) CONTINUES, WHICH SYMBOLISES THE PROCESS OF GETTING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER IN NUCLEAR ISSUES AND WHICH IS A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF A BROADER COMMITMENT OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY AND THE PROMOTION OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY WHICH ARGENTINA SUPPORTS.

ON THE HEMISPHERIC SCALE, OUR COUNTRY CELEBRATES WITH SATISFACTION THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY FOR THE PROSCRIPTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TLATELOLCO TREATY) AND THE DECISION TO ADHERE TO THE TREATY OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TNP). IN THIS WAY, A LATIN-AMERICAN CONSCIENCE INCREASINGLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE IDEA OF NON-PROLIFERATION IS CONSOLIDATED.

AT THE UNIVERSAL LEVEL, ARGENTINA IS ANALYSING THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TNP IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THEM DURING THE NEXT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA. THIS IS TAKING PLACE WITH THE PERSPECTIVE TO ACHIEVE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STEPS THAT WERE AGREED UPON BY THE STATES PARTIES OF THE TNP IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THE SYSTEMATIC AND PROGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE VI OF THIS INSTRUMENT.

IN THIS SENSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION TO THE CALL TO THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY AND THE IMMEDIATE START OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT OF A CONVENTION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF FISSILE MATERIAL DESTINED FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

MR. PRESIDENT

ARGENTINA REGRETS THAT AFTER SIX YEARS THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS ON THE BASIS OF THE TEXT PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE PROTOCOL OF VERIFICATION THAT WOULD REDUCE THE RISK OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND WOULD SERVE AS DISCOURAGEMENT FOR ITS PROLIFERATION, HAVE NOT TO BEEN COMPLETED. IN THIS SENSE, ARGENTINA CONSIDERS THAT NO COUNTRY SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE FORMULATION OF A LEGALLY BINDING REGIME AND CALLS FOR THE STUDY OF INNOVATIVE WAYS THAT WOULD LEGITIMATELY SERVE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE VERIFICATION REGIME.

AS REGARDS NON-PROLIFERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, ARGENTINA RATIFIES ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRED THE CONVENTION THAT ENTERED INTO FORCE IN APRIL OF 1997. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE THE ROLE THAT OPCW SHOULD PLAY BECAUSE IT IS IN CHARGE OF A VERY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX TASK DUE TO THE IMMENSE ARSENALS THAT HAVE TO BE DESTROYED AND THE HUGENESS OF THE INSTALLATIONS THAT HAVE TO BE INSPECTED, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE LARGE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE MISSION OF OPCW HAS PARTICULAR RELEVANCE IN MOMENTS IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FEELS ITSELF MORE THREATENED BY THE PHENOMENON OF TERRORISM. ARGENTINA ALSO IDENTIFIES WITH THE PRIMORDIAL OBJECTIVE OF OPCW IN ACHIEVING THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CONVENTION. OUR COUNTRY CONSIDERS THAT THE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE IN THESE AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE CONVENTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO THE EXTREME.

IN THIS SENSE, WE FEEL VERY PLEASED THAT THE STATES PARTIES DEPOSIT THEIR TRUST IN A DISTINGUISHED ARGENTINE DIPLOMAT TO LEAD THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD BENEFIT

FROM THE RENEWED SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND CO-OPERATION THAT PREVAIL IN THIS NEW STAGE THAT WE HAVE JUST BEGAN.

MR. PRESIDENT

THE PREOCCUPATION ON MISSILE NON-PROLIFERATION CONSTITUTES ANOTHER OF THE PILLARS OF THE POLICY OF THE NON PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND ITS VECTORS, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND EXPORT CONTROL OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND WAR MATERIAL OF ARGENTINA.

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND OF THE POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS TO PREVENT THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND ITS VECTORS IS OF PRIMORDIAL IMPORTANCE FOR MY COUNTRY.

FOR A LONG TIME THE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR) - OF WHICH ARGENTINA FORMS PART- USED TO BE THE ONLY CONTROL INSTRUMENT IN THE SUBJECT OF MISSILE PROLIFERATION, BUT NOW IT IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS APPROACH THROUGH GLOBAL AND MULTINATIONAL ACTIONS THAT ARE NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND COMPREHENSIVE.

FOR THESE REASONS ARGENTINA SUPPORTS THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE PROJECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES (ICOC) WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR A NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ITS ADOPTION.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLENARY MEETINGS OF 2002 OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED REGIME IN WARSAW, THE DECISION THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD BE PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD 2003-04 HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

THE ACTIVE AND COMMITTED PARTICIPATION OF ARGENTINA IN MTCR, WHICH EXTENDS TO TEN YEARS, IS FRAMED IN THE PERMANENT SUPPORT OF EFFORTS AGAINST THE MISSILE PROLIFERATION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ARGENTINA SUPPORTS THE WORK DONE BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MISSILES WHICH WILL PRESENT ITS REPORT, ACCORDING TO WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED BY RESOLUTION 55/23 A.

MR. PRESIDENT

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF A CLIMATE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. THIS HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL IN TIMES WHEN THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN PUT TO TRIAL AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS THAT AFFECTS THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN A FIRM PROMOTER OF THESE MEASURES AT THE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND HEMISPHERIC LEVEL AS WELL AS THE GLOBAL LEVEL, BECAUSE THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO DEMONSTRATE WITH CONCRETE FACTS THE WILL FOR INTEGRATION AND CO-OPERATION THAT GUIDE OUR ACTIONS.

ARGENTINA HAS PUT INTO PRACTICE WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS, PRACTICALLY ALL THE CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AGREED UPON AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND IS READY TO CONTINUE THIS TASK, CARRYING OUT NEW MEASURES AND IMPROVING THE ALREADY EXISTING ONES.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT TO THE WORK OF THE U.N.D.C. IN THE FIELD OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND WE HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THE THREE YEARS CYCLE WITH CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT

THE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF SMALL AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS, HAS MARKED A POINT OF INFLECTION IN THE ATTITUDE OF STATES REGARDING THE COMBAT AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN THESE ARMS. IT IS THEREFORE PROMISING TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA ON THE INTERMEDIATION OF ARMS, THE DETECTION OF ROUTES OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND THE LOCALISATION OF THEIR WAYS OF PROVISION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND THE RESULTS OF THE REPORTS OF THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF EXPERTS.

TAKING AS A FRAMEWORK THE PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERAMERICAN CONFERENCE AGAINST THE MANUFACTURE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF FIREARMS, IN ARGENTINA AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE DISARMAMENT PROGRAMS BEING IMPLEMENTED OR PREPARED WHICH HAVE AS A GOAL THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF URBAN VIOLENCE, AS WELL AS THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF FIREARMS.

IN THE SUBREGIONAL LEVEL, IN MARCH OF THIS CURRENT YEAR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE GROUP OF ARMS OF MERCOSUR, BOLIVIA AND CHILE, CREATED BY DECISION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES. TOOK

PLACE IN BUENOS AIRES REAFFIRMING ITS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSTITUTION AS A SUBREGIONAL MECHANISM OF APPLICATION AND FOLLOW UP BOTH THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION AND THE ABOVE MENTIONED PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF ARMS.

MR. PRESIDENT

THE OTTAWA CONVENTION WAS ABLE TO TRANSFORM IN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS THE DEMAND TO ELIMINATE THE ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES THAT CAUSE SERIOUS HARM TO CIVIL POPULATION AND WHOSE NEGATIVE EFFECTS PERSIST FOR DECADES, EVEN AFTER THE CONFLICTS THAT CAUSED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE ARE OVER. OUR REGION IS ONE THAT RESPONDED VERY WELL TO THIS COMMITMENT SINCE ALMOST ALL OF LATIN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ARE PARTIES TO THIS INSTRUMENT.

ARGENTINA COMPLETELY SHARES THE OBJECTIVES CONSECRATED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONVENTION AND HAS WORKED TOWARDS ITS UNIVERSALIZATION AND ITS APPLICATION, PRESENTING AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 7, ITS NATIONAL REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY MEASURES, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVANCES THAT WERE DONE FOR THE EXECUTION OF ITS PLAN OF DESTRUCTION OF STOCKED MINES.

ARGENTINA HOPES THAT THE NEXT CONFERENCE ON REVISION OF CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW) WILL BE AN OCCASION TO REINFORCE THIS LEGAL INSTRUMENT WORTHY FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW. IN THIS SENSE, IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE RESULT OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUPS MAY CONSTITUTE AN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF THE REMAINS OF THE EXPLOSIVE WAR MATERIALS AS WELL AS OTHER WEAPONS OF INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS.

MR. PRESIDENT

AS IT IS DEMONSTRATED WITH OUR INTERVENTIONS IN THIS GENERAL DEBATE, WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US AN IMPORTANT NUMBER OF ISSUES TO RESOLVE THAT ARE VITAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFER WORLD. IT WILL DEPEND ON OUR GENUINE POLITICAL WILL TO JOINT EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS BASIC OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU