

# CHILE

MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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***FIFTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY***

***DELEGATION OF CHILE***

***STATEMENT TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE BY MINISTER  
COUNSELLOR, MR. ALFREDO LABBE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL POLICY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT  
REPRESENTING THE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF  
CONDUCT AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION  
(THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT)***

New York, 10 October 2003

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to take the floor in this general debate of the First Committee at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly representing the 109 Subscribing States to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as “The Hague Code of Conduct”.

The “Hague Code of Conduct” – a political instrument to which I will refer henceforth simply as “the Code” – was opened for signature in the capital of the Netherlands on 25 November 2002, following a process of discussion and negotiation that was open to participation by all States concerned by the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. The text of the Code, which was transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a letter dated 30 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, has already been officially circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 66 of the agenda (A/57/724).

The Subscribing States to the Code, based on their full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, have pledged to confront the challenges to security, in addition to other phenomena, are leading to the increasing proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.

Our Code is a normative benchmark that is political in nature, and not an international treaty. The obligations that the Code establishes – which are politically binding – are designed to strengthen and contribute to the universalization of the entire range of multilateral instruments and mechanisms for disarmament and non-proliferation. We are convinced that adherence to the norms of international law in the field of disarmament and full compliance with them are essential for building confidence at the international level.

As such, we, the Subscribing States to the Code – which is open to all member States of the international community that may wish to subscribe – are seeking to promote the security of all States, by promoting mutual confidence through political and diplomatic means.

Our objective is to contain and prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction – at both the regional and global levels – through multilateral, bilateral and national efforts. I wish to emphasize that we are a clearly multilateral referent: our numbers include States representing all the continents and all regional groups recognized within the United Nations system. We work shoulder to shoulder within the Code, nations of the North and South, developed and developing. Of the 109 Subscribing States, 47 are members or observers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, a fact that demonstrates the cross-cutting nature of the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Chairman,

As our point of departure, we have sought to exercise the maximum restrictions possible on the development, testing and use of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. This also includes – to the extent possible – reducing national holdings of such missiles in order to promote international peace and security.

We have also pledged to exercise the necessary vigilance in order to ensure that technical assistance and cooperation do not contribute – even inadvertently – to the development of missile programmes associated with the development of weapons of mass destruction. But this, without prejudice to confirmation of our commitment to the United Nations Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking into particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/112, of 13 December 1996.

We have also recognized that States should not be excluded from utilizing the benefits of space for peaceful purposes.

Lastly, we have resolved to implement transparency and confidence-building measures, including providing information on ballistic missile programmes and expendable space launch vehicle programmes in Subscribing States. Such confidence-building measures do not exclude those already implemented between Subscribing States or those that Subscribing States may develop or promote at the regional or bilateral level.

The Hague Code of Conduct held its second regular meeting of Subscribing States in this city on 2-3 October, at the same time as the First Committee began its work. At that meeting, we noted with satisfaction the expansion of our membership and continued to discuss the standardization and qualitative improvement of the annual declarations and pre-launch notifications of ballistic missile and space launch vehicle launches. We also agreed on a mechanism for the timely circulation of communications that are part of the confidence-building measures. We are thus in a phase of gradual development of our political tools, characterized by criteria of flexibility.

Less than a year after coming into existence, the Code is now a concrete, palpable and growing reality, with confidence-building measures that are working, with a Secretariat – our Immediate Central Contact - functioning in The Hague, and with a range of ongoing promotion and dissemination activities. The most recent of these was the outreach seminar organized by the outgoing Chair in New York, last week, during which a useful discussion was held on the contribution that the Code will make to achievements in the field of disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The Hague Code of Conduct is a normative political response to the threat of proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. It is not, however, the only response possible and, as a political referent, may coexist perfectly alongside other multilateral initiatives and mechanisms designed to achieve the same objective.

In reporting on the progress of our work to the General Assembly, we are motivated both by a spirit of transparency and by a desire to see the greatest possible number of States join our ranks – all those States that are genuinely committed to the cause of international peace and security have a natural place among us.

Thank you very much.