



Argentina

"Comisión de Desarme de las Naciones Unidas"

2008 Sesión Sustantiva

**Intervención del Embajador Jorge Argüello, Representante
Permanente de la República Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas**

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Sírvase verificar contra lectura

"United Nations Disarmament Commission"

2008 Substantive Session

**Statement by Ambassador Jorge Argüello, Permanent
Representative of the Argentine Republic to United Nations**

New York, April 08th, 2008
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Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your designation to guide the work of this session of the Disarmament Commission. I avail myself of this opportunity to also extend my greetings to the two Presidents of the Working Groups, Minister Jean Francois Zinzou of Benin and Counsellor Carlos Perez of Brasil and wish them success in their work. We guarantee the full support of the Argentine Delegation for this objective.

At the same time I associate myself with the statement delivered by the Representative of Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group that contains the basic principles of my country's position regarding nuclear disarmament and confidence building measures.

Mr. President,

Argentina is convinced that there is room for revitalization of existing disarmament bodies. During the last two years we have witnessed few results in the tasks that we as Member States have assigned to ourselves with the objective of responding to challenges to international peace and security. However, these recent experiences must not discourage us from the continuous search of the consolidation of multilateralism and especially the United Nations as an efficient tool to face these challenges and create a safer world for our citizens.

Mr. President,

The recent sessions of the Disarmament Commission couldn't escape from the modest results that were registered in other disarmament fora. As a deliberative body with universal representation, it had shown how difficult it is to continue to revitalize the necessary political will that needs to be translated into practical recommendations for them to be implemented at the global, regional and national level.

The current session gives us an unique opportunity to reach consensus on the two main subjects in our agenda, nuclear disarmament and confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms. We have a substantive basis within the two Working Groups to advance in a concrete way during the current session. Keeping in mind that this is the last of a three-year cycle, we appeal to delegations to show the necessary political flexibility to successfully conclude the work of the Commission. We believe that we must progress in all areas of discussion. At the same time, we also have to be realistic with regards to the complexity of the issues in discussion. Therefore, we must not allow that the progress in one area put conditions to similar advances in other. In other words, to restrict our work to parallel developments in all areas of discussion would only lead us to the failure of our efforts which is something that I am sure we all want to avoid.

Mr. President,

Argentina is firmly committed to nuclear disarmament. We believe in it based on principles, on convictions and because in our capacity of a country that produces and consumes energy and nuclear material we believe that a special responsibility falls upon us. Our country has attached priority to nuclear disarmament and has put in place important efforts in this field at the national, bilateral, regional and global level.

Since the adoption of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Latin American and Caribbean region has been a pioneer in the search of a world free of nuclear weapons. However, regional actions –no matter how important or laudable they may be- cannot replace those of universal kind in their scope and impact. In this we all have a universal responsibility. As representative of a highly populated country that is part of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, I reiterate the call on all Nuclear States to

renew their efforts to fulfill the objectives of Article VI of the NPT which is the cornerstone of the disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy regimen.

At the same time and keeping in mind that some Member States of the Commission have not yet joined the instrument, we urge them to reconsider this decision and join the regimen as Non Nuclear States.

I would like to express our profound concern for the lack of implementation of the Thirteen Practical Steps recommended in the final document of the Review Conference of the NPT of 2000. Unfortunately, those measures that we agreed upon 8 years ago are still valid today since they have scarcely been implemented.

Let me stress that the challenges that we face in the nuclear arms proliferation would additionally have a more effective response if the possessing States demonstrate their willingness to the complete elimination of these arms. This situation is further deepened due to the growing disposition to include nuclear arms in new security doctrines. Double speech cannot be sustained, one cannot talk about the benefits of non proliferation while more sophisticated nuclear arms are being developed, when the destruction of existing arsenals is being delayed and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty is being avoided.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Argentina is ready to contribute to a common and shared understanding on the immediate necessities regarding disarmament and nuclear non proliferation. We hope that during the current session all Member States will share this fundamental premise and, with creativity, we will identify immediate steps to finally reach a world free of nuclear arms.

Mr. President,

Allow me now to briefly touch upon the second agenda item of the Commission in my capacity as representative of a country belonging to one of the regions that has advanced the most in the implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the field of Conventional Arms.

Just as in the case of nuclear disarmament, the Latin American and Caribbean region has been pioneer in the implementation of these measures. We have witnessed their benefits in the safeguarding of peace and the consolidation of democracy in the Americas, by allowing greater transparency and dialogue among countries of the Hemisphere.

The objective of the CBM is to reduce uncertainties and misperceptions of the behavior of States, thus diminishing the risks for military confrontations. Keeping in mind that this concept is dynamic, its implementation and consolidation allows not only the prevention of armed conflict but also offers an efficient tool for greater transparency and cooperation in the field of defense and security so that greater integration pursued in the political, social, economic and cultural areas. This dynamic concept supposes at the same time that CBMs are shaped by each applying State. This is why we believe that it is important to transmit experiences that have been developed in the bilateral, sub-regional and regional context so that we may contribute to the design of analogue experiences in other regions.

Based in this conviction, since the 59th UNGA, Argentina introduced a Resolution with the objective to strengthen the information exchange on CBMs, among other goals. In the implementation of this Resolution - that has been adopted by consensus and with more than 100 co-sponsors – ODA has created a data base that allows periodic consultations of the progress in the design and implementation of the measures in the global framework. We appeal Member

States to make use of this tool in order to consolidate an additional transparency mechanism within the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Even though there are voices that insist to discredit the utility of the Disarmament Commission, we believe that the current international security situation leads us, quite on the contrary, to analyze the necessity of its revalorization. Reaching agreement on innovative and creative recommendations will not be possible without the necessary political will. We consider that the Commission offers an adequate context for this due to its deliberative nature which allows us to a sincere dialogue that helps everybody to understand each others' national position. It is our duty to continue believing in the current disarmament bodies as tools for the consolidation of international peace and security and thus respond to the interests of our citizens.

Thank you very much.