URUGUAY

Intervención del
Señor Representante Permanente del Uruguay ante las Naciones Unidas
Embajador Felipe H. Paolillo

Reunión de alto nivel titulada
"Allanar el camino a fin de adoptar medidas en 2005 y más adelante con miras a cumplir los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio en África"

PNUD/FNUAP/GOBIERNO DEL REINO UNIDO

Nueva York, 23 de setiembre de 2004

(Vale texto leido)

Address of the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations
Ambassador Felipe H. Paolillo

Informal high-level meeting on
"Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Paving the way for action in 2005 and beyond"

UNDP / UNPFA / GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

New York, 23 September 2004

(Check against delivery)

Misión Permanente del Uruguay ante las Naciones Unidas
866 UN Plaza • Suite 322 • Nueva York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 752 8240 • Fax: (212) 593 0935 • uruguay@un.int

Mr. President:

In the face of the idea, certainly widespread, that it will not be possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015, it is encouraging to note that both the Secretary-General in his annual report on the work of the Organization and the Administrator of this Program maintain that there is still time to make reality of at least some of these Goals within the time frame that has been set. While this clearly poses an extremely difficult challenge, in particular as it relates to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, it is by no means impossible. What is needed now are not new conferences, declarations or resolutions; what is needed now is the implementation and fulfillment, during the remaining time, of the obligations, commitments and plans of action that we have already agreed upon. World leaders must demonstrate that they are motivated by a genuine political will to cooperate effectively and renew their efforts to fulfill the commitments undertaken, with emphasis on international cooperation for development and focusing their action on breaking the vicious circle of underdevelopment and poverty that affects the African continent and many developing countries in other regions of the world.

Initiatives such as the one that brings us together here today are the kinds that are needed to achieve these aims. We therefore commend the Government of the United Kingdom, wish it every success and offer it the Government of Uruguay's support and collaboration to the extent of our capacities.

Achieving lasting peace in Africa is critical to tackling the issue of its development. Faithful to its peace-loving and universal vocation and to its commitment to the multilateral system, Uruguay has been participating for some years now in several United Nations peacekeeping operations on the African continent. Currently, around two thousand Uruguayan military men and women have been deployed in several African countries, in particular in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Uruguay is also providing equipment, including water treatment plants for the purification and distribution of water for the local population as well

as for peacekeeping forces, in areas where this vital element is in short supply.

Within its limited capacity, Uruguay will continue to contribute to the achievement of peace in Africa, but also to its development, because peace cannot be lasting if the end to conflict is not accompanied by the creation of jobs and improvements in the quality of life of the people, among others. This is why the Government of Uruguay reiterates its intention to continue to strengthen and promote South/South cooperation in areas such as health, agro-industrial development, civil engineering and trade.

In keeping with this vision, contacts have been increased at the highest political levels between our authorities and the authorities of several African countries that have led to the signing of Agreements on Scientific and Technical Cooperation to strengthen capacity for development. Such agreements have been concluded with South Africa, Namibia, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Mozambique. Investments on both sides have also increased and commercial ties have expanded both at the bilateral level and between MERCOSUR and the States of the African region.

In 2005, just one year from now, we will be meeting in the high-level event of the General Assembly to review progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals. We therefore have before us a year of hard work in which to achieve genuine progress for the peoples of Africa.

Thank you.