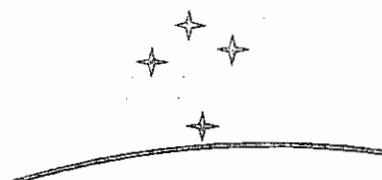




URUGUAY



MERCOSUR

INTERVENCION DE LA DELEGACION DEL URUGUAY EN
NOMBRE DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS DEL MERCOSUR
-ARGENTINA, BRASIL, PARAGUAY Y URUGUAY- Y SUS
ESTADOS ASOCIADOS -BOLIVIA Y CHILE-

Debate Estructurado, Primera Comisión

Tratado de Prohibición Completa de Ensayos Nucleares

Nueva York, 23 de octubre de 2003
(vale texto leído)

INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF URUGUAY ON
BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF MERCOSUR -
ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY- AND
ITS ASSOCIATED STATES -BOLIVIA AND CHILE-

Structured Debate, First Committee

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

New York, October 23rd 2003
(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

My delegation wishes to take the floor on behalf of Member States of Mercosur –Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and its Associated States – Bolivia and Chile- to address the implementation of the treaty for the prohibition of nuclear testing –CTBT-.

Our six countries, besides from having ratified it, have already expressed individually and in more than one occasion their opposition to nuclear weapons of any nature; it should not be necessary to recall likewise their opposition to any kind of nuclear testing.

To be the first organized sub region in prohibiting the nuclear testing is a clear demonstration of its position with regard to this issue and with the same clarity our countries have supported through the Organization of American States, the call to other countries of our own region to adhere or ratify this Treaty. This not only reflects the fact that although we support maintaining the moratorium over nuclear testing, we believe it is not enough and the CTBT offers the reasons why.

The CTBT has several characteristics that make of it a positive instrument for non proliferation and disarmament; its non discriminatory nature and its universal scope make of the CTBT an adequate complement to the network of instruments destined to preserve the security. And in a global scenario of uncertainty, the prohibition of nuclear testing acquires an even larger relevance, for it represents a concrete step that allows to receive or send clear signals of the compromise of each State with regard to a planet free from nuclear weapons.

Therefore, and even though we have not reached the necessary number of ratifications to turn the CTBT into an efficient tool, Mercosur and Associates wishes once more to draw the attention to it and calls upon the adhesion or ratification as soon as possible.

Thank you.