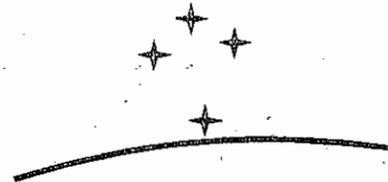




**URUGUAY**



**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**

**Convención sobre la Prohibición del Desarrollo , Producción, Almacenamiento y  
Uso de Armas Químicas y sobre su Destrucción**

**Convención sobre la Prohibición del Desarrollo, Producción, Almacenamiento de  
Armas Bacteriológicas y Tóxicas y sobre su Destrucción**

Nueva York, 24 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**

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use  
of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction**

**Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of  
Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction**

New York, October 2003

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of Mercosur –Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay- and its Associated States –Bolivia and Chile- to address the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons.

With regard to the first one, the Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons constitutes one of the main pillars for the struggle against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The compromise of Mercosur and Associates was demonstrated with the ratification of this instrument and it is with satisfaction that we can affirm that our sub region has no weapons of mass destruction of any kind.

The Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons has the ultimate objective, apart from the definitive destruction of such weapons, as well as of its stockpiling and of its facilities, the control, through inspections and verifications, of the chemical activity –including substances and precursors that directly or indirectly might help in the elaboration of chemical weapons, developed by the States parties to it.

At a time in which the international community is threatened by a terrorism that seems to be determined to use any kind of weapon of mass destruction in order to plant hatred and destruction, this premise has particular relevance.

After five years of the entry into force of this Convention, it is important to point out the advancement in its implementation as a result of the international efforts undertaken by the Organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the states parties to the Convention.

We hope that in a near future a total elimination of such weapons can be achieved through the destruction of existing arsenals, the recycling of the related facilities and the application of measures to strengthen ins policies of non proliferation.

We should like to highlight as well the relevant role of the OPCW in achieving the incorporation of new States to the Convention; however, this process will also require the political will of the international community in attaining the universality of this instrument.

Furthermore, in order to achieve a real effectiveness, it is necessary a follow up the process of implementation of the Convention on the side of the States; in particular the adoption of domestic legislation and the creation of criminal laws that may guarantee the fulfillment and efficacy of the Convention.

In this regard, we consider of the outmost importance to adapt the mechanisms that control the transfer of chemical substances and its precursors and achieve an better understanding and cooperation among States towards solving eventual discrepancies in its declarations.

On the other hand, it becomes necessary the need for a global compromise in order to obtain a policy of transparency in the chemical activities developed by States that must be reflected both in their declarations as during the course of inspections carried out by the OPCW.

We believe that it is important to point out the need to promote the approach between customs offices and authorities in order to create a collective effort undertaken by those institutions

in charge of control and security; to create and use the mechanisms for cooperation and international assistance in order to prevent the use of any prohibited substance; and to create mechanisms of rapid response to act when faced to the misuse of such substances or when an attack with chemical weapons takes place.

With regard to the second one, the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons, and within its frame, it is important to point out the task undertaken by the Group of Governmental Experts under the chairmanship of Ambassador Tibor Toth, during the last meeting which took place in Geneva between August 18 and 29<sup>th</sup> 2003.

Mercosur and Associates support the results of such meetings, which reflect the efforts of the international community in achieving a control over the activities related to biotechnology and towards a future binding agreement among the States.

Bringing together the global will in the promotion of economic and social cooperation in the scientific and technological development (at the bilateral or multilateral levels), the exchange of information, of material and experts in relevant fields, are most important needs for the advancement of people.

Furthermore, in order to achieve a better approach and cooperation among States it is prioritary to adopt measures at the national level to implement the prohibitions contained in the Convention with regard to implementing a national mechanism of security and monitoring of micro-organisms both pathogenic and toxic.

Mercosur and Associates hope that in a near future it will be achieved the universalization of the Convention, that States Parties will observe transparency in the transfer of the peaceful use of technology without discrimination, that training programs based upon agreements for development and application of biotechnology will be promoted and that the creation of an international data bank will be created to facilitate the information in the field of genetic biotechnology.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we wish to point out the importance of strengthening the national and international efforts and existing mechanisms for the supervision, detection, diagnosis and combat of infectious diseases that affect human beings, plants and animals.

Thank you.