



URUGUAY



MERCOSUR

58o. PERIODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

TERCERA COMISION

**Discurso del Embajador Dr. Felipe H. Paolillo
Representante Permanente del Uruguay ante las Naciones Unidas
En nombre del MERCOSUR, Bolivia y Chile**

Tema 105: "Aplicación de los resultados de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social y el Vigésimo Cuarto Periodo Extraordinario de Sesiones de la Asamblea General"

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Felipe H. Paolillo
Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations
On behalf of MERCOSUR, Bolivia y Chile**

Item 105: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Twenty Forth Special Session of the General Assembly

New York, 6 October, 2003

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the member countries of MERCOSUR - Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay - and the associated countries, Bolivia and Chile, on agenda item 105.

I wish to extend the congratulations of the Group to you, Mr. Chairman, and through you also to the other members of the Bureau on your election to guide the work of the Third Committee, and at the same time to assure you that the members of the Group stand ready to give you their fullest cooperation.

The Group also wishes to express its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/58/172, which addresses the question of the need for coherence between the various policies required to promote social development, participation and partnership as objectives and means of social development.

The member countries and associate members of MERCOSUR wish to reiterate our firm commitment to the principles and objectives established at the World Summit for Social Development and at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly held to follow up the outcome of the Summit.

We also wish to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of representative democracy and the rule of law and our unconditional respect for civil and political rights, which are the basic foundations of our regional integration, in the belief that the objective of integral, equitable and people-centred social development can be achieved only within a context of full respect for human rights.

MERCOSUR and the associated countries have based their social agenda on the Charter of Buenos Aires of June 2000 and have based their common social development goals on the Gramado commitment of September 2000, which is consistent with the Copenhagen Programme of Action. The Group has also institutionalized the Meeting of Social Development Ministers and Authorities of MERCOSUR and the associated countries, a mechanism that was established to identify common priorities in this area and to develop programmes and projects at the national and regional level in areas such as the fight against poverty and the eradication of child labour.

In this connection, the Presidents of the States parties of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile have renewed their commitment to spare no effort in the fight against poverty and social inequality through, among other things, an increase in the availability of productive employment and broader and unrestricted access by the entire population to education and health, with special emphasis on children and other vulnerable groups.

It is a matter of the utmost priority for MERCOSUR to persevere in its efforts to promote development with equity in its States parties and in the region as a whole,

with emphasis on all those measures that seek to promote the social and economic inclusion of the most disadvantaged sectors of the population.

In circumstances of a critical economic situation, our Governments have sought to adopt measures that address in particular the needs of marginalized sectors through programmes targeted to specific groups, such as older adults, children and adolescents.

MERCOSUR and the associated countries holds the view that social development requires active participation by all actors in the process of development. It therefore encourages the participation of those sectors of civil society represented in the Economic and Social Consultative Forum in the process of integration.

The Group promotes the cooperative movement, recognizing in that activity an important tool for development and an agent for promoting regional development, economic integration, inclusion and social cohesion.

MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile share the view that the major conferences held since 2000 on social or development issues have included in their agendas many of the questions that had been dealt with at the Copenhagen Summit and Copenhagen + 5. Hence the importance of implementing the recommendations of the World Summit and its follow-up meeting, whose goals are summarized in the Millennium Development Goals.

To this end, our Group also wishes to stress the importance of national and international cooperation for social development, which is essential for the strengthening of the human, institutional and technological capacity of developing countries.

Our countries efforts to achieve social development also require the assistance of the international community, especially the United Nations system, and in particular the Bretton Woods institutions and with respect to the opening up of international markets.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, the members of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile wish to express once again our political will to continue to work individually and collectively to achieve the goals and objectives set out at the World Summit for Social Development and in the respective special follow-up session, so as to ultimately achieve well-being for all our peoples.

I thank you