

URUGUAY



Intervención del Delegado del Uruguay
Sr. Enrique Loedel

CONFERENCIA PARA FACILITAR LA ENTRADA EN VIGOR DEL TRATADO
DE PROHIBICIÓN COMPLETA DE ENSAYOS NUCLEARES

Naciones Unidas

Nueva York, 22 de setiembre de 2005

(Cotejar con texto leído)

Statement by the Delegate of Uruguay
Enrique Loedel

CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

United Nations

New York, September 22nd 2005

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

Uruguay has repeatedly expressed against nuclear weapons in every forum where such subject has been debated; for a which by the way are being reduced consistently, some being cancelled, some others for not agreeing on an agenda, some others for lacking substantive agreements. An alarming example is the outcome document of the High Level Plenary recently adopted, where nuclear weapons, which have threatened international relations during the last 60 years, have not found a place to be mentioned.

Our country has already ratified all existing international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, highlighting its commitment with the cause of peace, the peaceful solution of disputes and the historical responsibility to perfect those mechanisms of protection from all weapons of mass destruction. Such commitment was evidenced a few days ago, when the President of the Republic signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Furthermore, Uruguay is part of the first organized sub region declared free of weapons of mass destruction, where through the respective ratifications, a common will was expressed to ban all nuclear tests. This sub region lies within a region that at the same time was the first to declare itself nuclear weapons free and where almost all its countries have ratified the CTBT.

Thus, by conviction, principle and juridical obligation, Uruguay adheres to this event of which its main purpose is to highlight the relevance of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the need to bring it into force as soon as possible.

The non discriminatory nature of the CTBT, as well as its universal scope make of this treaty a positive instrument, complementary to the rest of the instruments which create the international binding network for disarmament and non proliferation. It would be enough to recall that the CTBT –among other things- was part of the compromises which helped with the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995, that its observance would be safer than the moratorium on nuclear tests, that it would evidence the position of States with regards to the development of new generations of nuclear weapons, becoming a starting point towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The activities established by the CTBT are relevant and of equal importance, thus, there should be no ambiguity when detailing the commitments for the

entry into force of the Treaty. Uruguay understands that there should be no difference between the international monitoring system and the on site inspections, and calls upon to avoid discriminating when making the contributions. Furthermore, it is important to make clear that such activities cannot be accelerated to come into force with no legal framework in force that may be the reason for such control.

Likewise, the area of technical cooperation for developing countries should be treated on equal terms to the ones referred above. It is important to recall that such cooperation is essential for many countries that grant their support to the entry into force of the CTBT, being sometimes the only benefit received for such commitment or for being part of the global disarmament system. It would probably be healthy that such mechanisms were part of the CTBTO's budget under the title 'technical cooperation', to avoid having only dissemination and/or counseling seminars.

With regards to the mechanism of conferences established under article XIV, Uruguay believes it is about time to review such mechanism, which until now has been expensive and has had very poor results, far from their goal. One possibility could be to hold consultations in Vienna, as open as possible and with a large participation of countries who have signed and/or ratified, destined to find new mechanisms to stimulate the entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr Chairman,

The current political landscape in the field of nuclear weapons is not encouraging at all. The CTBT can help improving such landscape. Banning nuclear tests means to avoid developing new nuclear weapons. It may sound obvious, but that doesn't mean it is irrelevant.

Thank you.