



URUGUAY

STATEMENT BY

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« GENERAL DEBATE »

65th SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, September 29th, 2010
(Check against delivery)

H.E. President of the General Assembly,
Ministers,
Permanent Representatives,
Delegates,

Uruguay, consistent with its historical tradition and trajectory, reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international law. I would particularly like to underscore our firm support to the peaceful solution of conflicts, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention, free determination of Peoples, respect for human rights, international cooperation in the economic and social spheres and multilateralism, which find their maximum expression in this organization.

I would also like to point out our rejection of the threat and the use of force, terrorism and all types of violence and the application of coercive measures contrary to the United Nations charter, such as the trade, economic and financial embargo against Cuba on the part of the United States, which we firmly reject. This last unilateral measure is contrary not only to the charter, but to international law and to one of the most dearly held principles of my country's foreign policy, which is the peaceful settlements of disputes.

Uruguay is party to the principal international conventions in the area of the environment and sustainable development. Thus we have reaffirmed our responsibility in the protection of the environment as a human right and fundamental component for achieving truly sustainable development.

Our country promotes and receives important investments that contribute to industrial development, but we also exercise rigorous controls over the environmental quality, applying our internationally recognized regulations and demanding the use of the best available technology, effectively controlling the environmental impacts of such undertakings.

Uruguay has a long tradition in the areas of defense, promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. These principles are a central priority of the State, inscribed in the traditional pillars of the republic's foreign policy, which constitute the country's basic political and institutional assets. We applaud the advances made this year in Kampala (Uganda) that have allowed the strengthening of the regime established in the statute of the International Criminal Court. Uruguay is among the countries that have subscribed the widest range of conventions in the area of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Uruguay's long tradition in the defense of these principles has allowed us to assume a predominant role in matters of promotion and protection of children's rights, among other matters. We consider focusing our efforts on the defense and protection of children and ensuring their well-being to be of vital importance.

Our country has a formidable ally in this field: UNICEF. Its cooperation programs geared towards survival, infant mortality, nutrition, development of children and education, duly reflect the national interest, based on the implementation of an integrated system of social protection that includes early childhood as well as a focus on the needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable, without neglecting other situations, by means of the reduction of disparities, including the human rights perspective.

Also, we reaffirm our full support to the incorporation of the gender perspective in all policies of the United Nations system. Regarding this, we applaud the adoption of the resolution on the coherence of the United Nations system in creating the new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN).

To this respect, I would like to express our satisfaction with the appointment of Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile as Under Secretary General for UN-WOMEN. We are confident that her experience will constitute a critical asset for the new entity.

Mr. President,

Uruguay is fully committed to the cause of peace and our country's foreign policy bears testimony to that fact.

We have decidedly furthered all measures aimed at the elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. We have also advocated the control and reduction of conventional weapons.

In its capacity as a member country of the Tlatelolco Treaty that has established Latin America and the Caribbean as the first nuclear weapon free zone in a densely populated area of the world, Uruguay has contributed to strengthening both the regional Tlatelolco Regime and the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, which is considered to be the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We underscore, once again, the importance of its prompt global application.

Likewise, and without prejudice to the reaffirmation of our aspiration to a Convention for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, we believe that the entry into force of the treaty for the total nuclear test ban and a treaty for the prohibition of the production of fissionable material during the present year, constitute decisive steps in the consolidation and deepening of the advances made in the area of disarmament. We must not stop, because to stop is to go backwards, and to go backwards is to expose humanity to the horrendous and unacceptable risk of nuclear holocaust.

Uruguay's wish is that in 2012 a conference could be held in which all the states of the middle east participate, with the goal of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and of all other weapons of mass destruction, through freely agreed arrangements between the states of the region, with the full support and commitment of those states that possess nuclear weapons.

Similarly, Uruguay supports the United Nations Secretary General's five points initiative for a world free of nuclear weapons.

On the subject of conventional weapons, Uruguay is a firm promoter of a legally binding agreement on arms trade, which establishes common international regulations for the import, export and transfer of this type of weapons, which are responsible for a great number of deaths every day, particularly in Latin America.

Uruguay actively participates in the multilateral United Nations Peacekeeping and international security systems, the defense of human rights and international humanitarian law, by means of peacekeeping operations, because we are convinced that these are a solid testimony to the collective commitment of the international community as a whole to the defense of peace and international security; respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law, and a clear interest in strengthening multilateralism.

This commitment on the part of my country, in word as well as in deed, is demonstrated both in the deployment of more than 2,500 blue helmets, principally in Haiti and in the Democratic Republic of Congo and at the political level here in the United Nations headquarters, promoting constructive dialogue between all actors, including sensitive and crucial topics for the organization's work, such as the protection of civilians so that the system is increasingly effective and this body most representative of the organization becomes increasingly relevant.

We recognize that the Security Council holds the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, but we understand that it is fundamental to promote a approximation between this body and the General Assembly, because the greater the distance between them, the more difficult it is for Peacekeeping Operations to achieve their objectives and their complex mandates to be effectively implemented.

In this respect, the gap between the complexity of the mandates and the existing capacities poses a challenge that we must confront daily. We are convinced that there is no possible sustainability of complex missions such as those that currently demand our greatest attention without serious consideration of the resources necessary for their proper functioning and an updating of the conditions that the system offers to put at the service of the United Nations the necessary equipment and human resources. This subject particularly affects developing countries which provide the greater part of the troops, as the viability of their participation in PKOs is at stake.

There is no sustainable peacekeeping without early, consistent and durable efforts for peacebuilding, a notion that should be incorporated from the very beginning in PKOs, giving no less importance to tasks of institutional strengthening than to security related tasks. Attacking the roots of conflicts should be our objective when these conflicts unfortunately cannot be avoided, but preventing these conflicts should be our priority. For this reason we consider mediation and preventive diplomacy to be instruments that this organization should use more often.

The case of Haiti is probably the one that best illustrates this posture.

Uruguay has never been indifferent to the challenges that this brother country has had to confront and continues to confront. From 2004 to the present date, in the framework of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), we have deployed more than 10,000 military personnel who have faithfully carried out the mandate that the Security Council has approved for the stabilization process in this country.

In its role as coordinator of the Group of Friends of Haiti, Uruguay has been advocating for a mandate that, without neglecting urgent security needs, permits at the same time the establishment of the conditions necessary for strengthening productive capacity of the country, which was seriously affected by the earthquake of 12 January of the present year.

In Uruguay's opinion, greater emphasis should be placed on providing teachers, doctors, agronomists, experts in information technologies and volunteer workers that would effectively solve the problems of the Haitian population.

Mr. President,

In the last two years an open process of restructuring the peacekeeping system has been implemented, this being necessary on account of the new reality that we are facing. This process must be viewed as part of a larger project of reform of the organization, which through different

initiatives seeks to be more effective, to work in a more coordinated manner and to increase its legitimacy.

Uruguay reiterates its adherence to this process of reforming the United Nations. The process initiated during the Summit of 2005 that gave rise to the creation of two new structures within the organization – the Human Rights Council and the Peace Building Commission – should be completed by means of considering those topics that are still pending, including reform of the Security Council. The current international reality seems to require that this body be more representative and democratic, for which purpose we must proceed with its extension, although without increasing those historical obstacles that run contrary to the principle of sovereign equality of states, such as the right of veto.

A very clear example of Uruguay's commitment to the process of reforming the United Nations, seeking greater effectiveness and coordination within the system, is its direct participation in the "Delivering as One" program.

Three years after the initiation of the pilot experience in Uruguay, and having recently completed the country evaluation, we can affirm that the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the process has contributed to the national government's strengthening of the coordination between the different state bodies in a joint exercise of programming, making possible greater interaction between agencies, the government and United Nations system.

It is undoubtedly an instrument that allows for achieving more coherent action, with greater impact, more efficacy and efficiency, and which optimizes existing resources. It also reflects Uruguay's clear commitment to transparency, efficacy and efficiency in the management of international cooperation funds.

Insofar as the implementation of the "Delivering as One" program strengthened the transversal scope of public policies coordination and the demand for international cooperation, it generated at the same time new synergies, facilitating the identification and realization of south-south cooperation initiatives in areas where Uruguay has relative strengths.

Mr. President,

Uruguay has formalized its aspiration to occupy a seat as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2016-2017, being the only candidate country in the region at the present time.

Since its accession to the United Nations as a founding member, Uruguay, despite having carried out a foreign policy inspired by the same principles, proposals and values enshrined in the United Nations Charter, has occupied a seat in the Security Council only during the period 1965-1966.

The presentation of Uruguay's candidacy to the body in which the international community has entrusted the system of collective security constitutes the most demanding test that a state's foreign policy can undergo.

In furthering a foreign policy founded on the rule of law, characterized by a universalist conception that has a stake in establishing relations with all the countries in the world and which is based on the firm conviction that multilateralism is one of the staunchest allies of world peace, we believe that our country has legitimate credentials to occupy a position as a non-permanent member of the

Security Council. We hope that all members of the United Nations will support Uruguay's legitimate aspiration in this matter.

Mr. President,

Concerning the topic that brings us here this year, global governance, I would like to call on you to reflect, from a pragmatic perspective and in collective form, on the role that the United Nations should perform in the XXI century.

In the present context, profoundly marked by multiple global crises, it is imperative that we work jointly towards building long term strategies and solutions that would lead us to more just and equitable societies.

To this effect, the role of the United Nations and its part in international economic and financial governance is fundamental for democratization of decision making that guarantees participation on equal standing in global decisions that affect us all and that has a direct impact on planning short, medium and long term strategies. Decision making in a concerted, transparent and harmonic form is essential in achieving tangible results that improve living conditions and the situation of the world's citizens. Our country deems it necessary to promote the establishment of channels of dialogue that allow us to build bridges between the different decision making forums.

To this end, and as a member of the Global Governance Group, Uruguay calls on the member countries of the G-20 to focus their activities on the search for solutions that would reinstate the virtuous circle of global economic growth with equality, inclusiveness and transparency. We also believe it necessary to point out that this process must be channeled through the efforts of the international community as a whole, to strengthen multilateralism and reinforce the legitimacy of existing international institutions.

Mr. President,

We must be aware that without a healthy natural environment, all other efforts at development would have a limited effect. In this context, the global phenomenon of climate change is perhaps the most urgent and dramatic challenge that humanity currently faces. This poses additional challenges for development and forces us to consider the imperative necessity of implementing measures of adaptation to and mitigation of its adverse effects. Said measures demand changes in methods of production and seriously compromise the distribution of domestic resources.

Achieving sustainable development that takes into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions is fundamental in obtaining long term results and in ensuring a healthy environment for present and future generations and sustained economic growth. Achieving this is a necessary condition for the reduction of disparities between the developed and developing countries, particularly in quality of life, income distribution and human development indicators.

Likewise, and despite its condition as a middle income country, Uruguay still confronts serious challenges in development, which are strongly linked to production diversification, technological innovation and the promotion of renewable energy sources. To this end, national plans and strategies require the continued support of the United Nations system that would allow the achievement of an effective national strategy for medium and long term social development. Accordingly, we would like to emphasize the necessity of carefully considering a "new modality or

plans for cooperation" that attend to the specific needs of development which middle income countries such as Uruguay are faced with.

The current international economic and financial crisis marks the closing of a cycle of growth and demands a new way of thinking about development. As a consequence of its highly negative impacts, the equation of market, state and society is seriously challenged, and the debate on the future of the logic of economic accumulation and the rules of functioning of the global economic system has also come into question.

In order to mitigate the negative impacts, developing countries must have new and additional resources that would allow them to apply countercyclical policies to reverse those impacts. It is also indispensable to ensure an adequate political space to enable each country, according to its characteristics and specific challenges, to design its own development model.

Mr. President,

In closing, Uruguay would like once again to reaffirm the imperative necessity of renewing the political commitment to the realization of a multilateral trade system that is open and equitable and based on clear rules that would permit all countries to take advantage of the potential offered by international trade as the engine of development.

The eradication of hunger, the production of food and agricultural trade have a direct relationship that must be strengthened by means of a predictable multilateral system that grants guarantees to producers and ensures the availability of food to the most vulnerable sectors. In this context, the elimination of subsidies and other non tariff barriers, that at this time impede access to markets, is indispensable, as is the conclusion of the Doha round, the result of which would duly take into account the development perspective.

Thank you very much.-