

## Speech - Dip. Sanseverino/Uruguay

- End of the bipolar world order - growing demand for international mechanisms to address the redistribution of power and changes in international diplomacy; progressive importance of disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.
- Security threats in Latin America: high level of internal armed violence, privatization of public security, porosity of national borders making the region vulnerable to illegal trafficking in drugs, arms and other goods. The risk of contraband in dual-use materials should not be neglected. Shortage of resources and personnel make implementing security measures more difficult. Therefore: need to manage security not only on a domestic but also on a regional and international level.

### Challenges:

- Unlike the CWC the BWC contains no provisions on a treaty organization, government council, or advisory body. The main weakness of the BWC is the absence of a specialized system of verification and compliance. An important reason for this gap is the generally accepted notion that it can be extremely difficult to distinguish between peaceful and non-peaceful biotechnological research.
- Article X (on the peaceful use of biological and toxin agents) - Developing countries want to ensure their access to sensitive technology and tend to reject provisions they perceive as violations of their national sovereignty, especially in relation to the right to conduct research for pacific purposes and benefit from technological developments. The major powers, on the other hand, fear that information and materials may deviate from their pacific applications and contribute to horizontal proliferation.
  - Because of the difficulty of drawing a line between peaceful and hostile uses of biotechnology, the Convention relies on alternative instruments such as the Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs).
  - In 2001 a draft version of a legally binding protocol was presented. But the US refusal of the proposal caused tension, and the inability to reach a consensus kept other delegations from advancing in the negotiations.

### Uruguay:

- The international community can count on full support from Uruguay in its disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
- Uruguay's adherence to the multilateral normative framework is backed by a foreign policy that favors and promotes the need to progress with universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent initiatives in which all countries participate, regardless of their size or power.
- In its awareness of the benefits of coordinating existing initiatives and the advantages of their combined strength, Uruguay warmly welcomes the thematic focus of this meeting, as well as the newly launched PGA campaign to promote the universality and implementation of the BWC.
- Importance of extending membership to Non States Parties but also recognizes the need to look beyond the mere accession of states.

- After ratifying the BWC in 1981, Uruguay reaffirmed its commitment to disarmament and the rule of law several times through its adherence to various treaties/conventions: CWC (1994), CTBT (2001), CCM (2009).
- Unfortunately, in Uruguay, adherence to these treaties/conventions is often accompanied by a lack of effort on the domestic front to draft, modify and implement the necessary legislation.
  - Law No. 17.220 (1999): prohibits the disposal/introduction of any kind of dangerous waste/material on Uruguayan territory. Article 3: under 'hazardous waste' is included any material that, as a result of its physical, chemical, biological or radioactive characteristics, poses a threat to the human, animal, plant, or environmental health. Article 9: dictates a sentence of 12 months up to 12 years of imprisonment for those who breach this law.
- Uruguay lacks a proper legal framework with regard to the BWC. Reiterate our firm commitment to work on these issues in close cooperation with other State Parties and other relevant bodies.