



**CONFERENCIA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS ENCARGADA DE  
EXAMINAR LOS PROGRESOS ALCANZADOS EN LA  
EJECUCION DEL PROGRAMA DE ACCION PARA PREVENIR,  
COMBATIR Y ERRADICAR EL TRAFICO ILICITO DE ARMAS  
PEQUEÑAS Y LIGERAS EN TODOS SUS ASPECTOS**

**Intervención del Embajador César Mayoral  
Representante Permanente de Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas**

**EN NOMBRE DE LOS PAISES DEL MERCOSUR Y ESTADOS ASOCIADOS  
(Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela)**

**Nueva York, 26 de junio de 2006  
Verificar contra lectura**

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**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW PROGRESS  
MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF  
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT  
TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS  
IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**Statement by Ambassador César Mayoral  
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations**

**ON BEHALF OF THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATED STATES  
(Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela)**

**New York, June 26 , 2006  
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**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

The Argentine Republic, on behalf of the MERCOSUR and Associated States— Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela— wishes to express its satisfaction at having been elected as Chair of this Conference. We are convinced that during this mandate excellent work will be carried out, and we also wish to express our willingness to cooperate with the Conference during the course of the following weeks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

We recognize the contribution and qualitative difference that the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (UNPOA) has represented in order to provide a comprehensive and multidimensional response to the problems arising from such illicit activities.

This instrument has been a fundamental tool that, over a period of five years, has consolidated as a process and common reference point to identify the activities that we as Member States must carry out at national, regional and global level in order to deal with this problem.

However, we are still concerned about the effects manufacture, transfer and circulation illicit firearms, which in many regions of the world have a very wide range of consequences and challenge the sustainable development of our societies.

For this reason, considering that many tasks are still pending, we consider it important to continue boosting, within the framework of the United Nations, the consolidation of cooperation at international level in order to face this threat, and today we have an unique opportunity to carry out this task.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

The MERCOSUR and Associated States consider it imperative for this Conference to renew its commitment to strengthen this instrument through its full implementation, clarification of current recommendations and identification of absent topics, which become necessary to improve the international response to this problem.

The MERCOSUR and Associated States have actively participated in the negotiation of the final document to be adopted at this Conference. We are convinced that the document must reaffirm the objectives of this Program of Action, make a reliable diagnosis of its implementation and launch a negotiation process in respect of additional instruments, preferably of a legally binding, in order to ensure its strengthening. Such additional measures must reflect a minimum common denominator between the different needs of each region and their respective countries .

We welcome this informal consultations process which has taken place along previous months, as it has made it possible currently to have a working document which we hope will enable the achievement of progress and substantive results at this Conference. In this regard, the countries of the MERCOSUR and Associated States note with satisfaction the inclusion in such document of certain topics which we consider of high priority and hope to see reflected in the final document.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

Please, let me refer specifically to some of these topics.

Firstly, cooperation and assistance. The Program of Action recognizes them as essential tools to achieve the implementation of the recommended measures. In this regard, although we recognize that governments are primarily responsible for ensuring the resources to implement such measures, an effective response against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons requires the coordination of

Finally, we would like to see that substantive results in respect of civil possession of firearms, and urge States to strengthen regulations on acquisition and possession of arms to prevent the diversion of legally acquired arms towards the illegal market. We consider that this is important for the effective application of other controls at national level. For this reason, we believe it is important to exchange information on the regulation systems at national level.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Finally, I wish to refer to the follow-up mechanisms. Member States, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 60/81, have agreed to establish an agenda to face the issue of illicit trafficking beyond the year 2006. This should involve the strengthening of current mechanisms in order to regularly assess the progress in the implementation of the Program of Action and to negotiate additional documents for their strengthening. Therefore, we believe that The Biannual Meetings are the appropriate forum for the progress of such negotiations and we ask the Review Conference to grant a clear mandate to the Meetings.

Additionally, we support the holding of intersessional meetings for cooperation, assistance and exchange of information, which could also become mechanisms for follow-up of the instruments resulting from the Program of Action.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

On several occasions we have identified the consequences that the problem of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons has on our society with respect to civil security and, in particular, its impact on crime levels. Here, the MERCOSUR and Associated States wish to direct attention towards the need to strengthen the international response considering all the dimensions in which this problem becomes evident.

With this mandate, we have come to this Review Conference with a commitment to make our best efforts to help to achieve global commitments which will continue to ensure an effective response that furthers the welfare and development of our societies.

THANK YOU.