

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE STATEMENT BY THE
BRAZIL (FOR LATIN AMERICAN STATES
TO THE 2007 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF
THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

The delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela have the pleasure to take part in this annual Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.

Mr. Chairman, allow us to start this declaration by expressing our deep satisfaction to see you conduct and lead the work of this meeting. Both the Review Conference of 2006 as well as the Meeting of Governmental Experts last August under your chairmanship facilitated the substantive work. These countries endorse these declarations. They might have wished to have greater progress made. We do recognize that progress has been made in the strengthening of the follow-up mechanisms of the Convention. We would once again like to assure you of our availability to continue cooperating actively and constructively with you, Sir, throughout this annual meeting and in an ongoing permanent manner so as to make progress in our objective of full implementation and universalization of the Convention.

In accordance with the decision to carry out an intersessional working programme which was adopted at the last Review Conference, the Meeting of Experts last August of the Member States gave us the opportunity to identify mechanisms and a practical course of actions so as to achieve a better implementation of national legislation, including the strengthening and coordination of institutions as well as strengthening the mechanisms as regards regional and subregional cooperation .

During the said meeting, we submitted specific proposals springing from our joint position within the framework of the Review Conference 2006. Likewise, various delegations made substantive contributions which can be very useful indeed, so as to identify elements applicable to national cases or to any other regions or subregions.

For this reason, we would like to thank you for your efforts in drawing up document BWC/MSP/2007/L.1 which contains considerations and perspectives which were discussed throughout the above-mentioned meeting. We would like to request inclusion of the same as part and parcel of the final document of this Meeting. The recommendations contained in that document L.1 contain a guide to facilitate the implementation of the Convention in accordance with the national requirements and characteristics of each region.

We would also like to thank you for the efforts made in favour of the promotion of the universal nature of the Convention which we hope will be reflected in the report which will be submitted before this annual meeting.

We have borne witness to the importance that the creation of the International Support Unit has had for the implementation of the Convention (ISU) which, despite the limited human resources, has given a lot of assistance to Member States.

More specifically, we are encouraged that this ISU promotes and coordinates workshops or seminars on relevant aspects for the region. Along these lines, we invite the ISU to take up contact with regional or subregional organizations or with groups of interested countries so as to organize activities which will enable us to identify good practices for the application of the Convention. We reiterate our appeal to the international organizations as well as to the donor community to cooperate in this task. We believe that initiatives such as this one will contribute to the creation of a space for regional discussion which will encourage faster, more deeper understanding of the benefits and challenges raised by the application of the Convention.

We are convinced that the regional efforts and subregional efforts will enable us to identify ways ahead for a better scientific cooperation and transfer of technology. This is essential for the application of the Convention at a national level and in turn that is a very valuable incentive for its universal nature.

Once again, we reiterate the importance as regards the implementation of cooperation mechanisms in this realm so as to promote peaceful activities linked to public health and the agriculture and livestock activity amongst others, and husbandry activities.

At the government meeting of experts in August this year, we would like to have measures creating networks amongst the scientific networks and the scientific circles so as to have a peaceful use of biotechnology, microbiology, genetics and other areas which deal with the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons.

We reiterate once again the importance of having a multisectoral and multidimensional approach in the follow-up of the Convention. A multisectoral approach is consolidated with the participation of Civil Society, in particular the industrial sector and academic circles, the scientific community and the non-governmental organizations in our regions, since said sectors do encourage a better understanding of the obligations which are endorsed in the Convention.

A multidimensional approach presupposes a comprehensive vision, an articulate vision, of the different elements which are part and parcel of this instrument.

We also consider that the efforts which we could carry out at a national level are strengthened not just through a greater cooperation in a regional and subregional framework but also require an assessment as regards the implementation of the Convention at a global level. Now this approach enables us to interpret the three levels as being complementary and which mutually consolidate one another.

Now, Latin America and the Caribbean have been characterized because it is a peaceful region. We have signed various instruments and put forward initiatives which confirm this vocation. We have been a witness of the benefits to maintain an ongoing dialogue and constructive one in the different mechanisms created at a regional and subregional

level. Our countries repeatedly have expressed their commitment in favour of disarmament and the non-proliferation of all mass destruction weapons. As regards biological weapons, we have expressed our desire to prohibit the development, the production and use, stockpiling and transfer of said weapons.

Within this subregional field, since 1991 the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Chile have signed jointly the Declaration of Mendoza through which they committed themselves to not develop, produce or acquire in any way whatsoever, stockpile or retain, transfer indirectly or directly chemical or biological weapons. Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay joined this Declaration afterwards. Within the same year, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela agreed to a declaration renouncing mass destruction weapons. In that opportunity, they expressed a firm support to the Convention on Biological Weapons and they urged the adoption of a verification mechanism. Afterwards, the region endorsed on 22 July 2002 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the Declaration on the South American Peace Zone, through which the Heads of State of South America expressed the fact that they wished to prohibit the placing, the development, the production, the experimentation, the use, development of any kind of mass destruction weapons, including biological and toxin weapons, as well as its transit through countries of the region. Likewise, in July 2004 in Quito we approved the Declaration of San Francisco Quito on the establishment and development of a peace zone in the Andean community which, inter alia, is seeking to contribute to international disarmament and the effective provision of mass destruction weapons—nuclear, chemical, biological or toxin—and its transit through the subregion in accordance with the international instruments in force.

Regionally speaking, the Organization of American States, continuing with these initiatives, started a process which enables us to adopt various resolutions aimed at making out of the Americas a region free of biological or chemical weapons. With this, our countries have made an undoubted contribution to the Convention and therefore to peace and international security.

We highlight in this regard the adoption of Resolution AG/Res.2107 of the Organization of American States on 7 June [*interpreter said July, but original Spanish text says June*] 2005 in which we commit ourselves to adopt and apply immediately effective measures to establish internal controls so as to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and its vectors, including through the establishment of adequate controls of the materials related to this, since they then abstain in giving any kind of support to the non-State stakeholders who are trying to develop, acquire, manufacture, own, use or transfer said weapons.

We, the Latin American countries which endorse this Declaration, would like to express the hope that the next round of intersessional meetings can continue providing a substantive exchange of information and guidelines so as to set forth the basis for a detailed processing of all the elements which are part and parcel of the Convention, which enable us to fully implement this very important instrument.