

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR EUGENIO MARIA CURIA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AT THE TURNOVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA.

26 JANUARY 2010.

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues:

It has been a privilege and an honor to chair the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 and China during 2009.

Allow me at the outset to pay special tribute to the different chairs of the Task Forces who performed their jobs in an outstanding manner.

And I also want to thank my colleagues at the Argentine Mission for their permanent endeavour and commitment during my tenure.

Last year we were faced with a lot of activities –the chairpersons of the Task Forces have already illustrated on this issue- and we achieved very good results in different areas.

Let me just highlight a couple of them:

There was the UNGASS process and in the framework of the 52nd session of the CND the High-Level Meeting took place and we approved the Declaration and a Plan of Action.

After long negotiations, in Vienna and in Doha, a mechanism was adopted to implement the UNCAC, the first example of a peer review at general international level.

The Group on Financial and Government within UNODC was created and

Last year, after a long procedure, a new D.G. was elected at the IAEA.

Dear colleagues,

Let me share with you some ideas.

Developing countries have demonstrated to have a great potential and prospects for dynamic growth and development. Regrettably, the international financial crisis has shown us that the economic prospects of our countries can be adversely affected by wrong decisions and policies made far away from us.

The year 2009 marked the 45th anniversary of our Group. Therefore it might be the time to assess the contemporary trends in international relations, consider the evaluation of old objectives and the setting of new challenges. Current issues at the global arena require innovative approaches and political impetus, therefore the Group has to attest to its vitality and the cohesion of its members. We have proven record of its influence in international fora at the universal level.

Through our history, the scope of our interests has covered not only trade and economic affairs, but also social, human rights, humanitarian, environmental, security, nuclear and institutional issues.

We established this Group 45 years ago, to concentrate and transmit a common voice in defending the interests of our Nations and promote justice and equity in international relations. It has been said many times already, but it is important to reiterate that redressing imbalances, eliminating poverty and assuring peace and stability are the outstanding and timeless challenges which are common and shared responsibilities.

Among the most important goals to address in the Vienna fora are the industrialization of developing countries, the prevention and fighting of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering and terrorism, the use of outer space and its applications, the transfer of technology in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, the question of non proliferation and the entry into force of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

On IAEA matters, and considering the challenges faced by the international community, I am convinced that our Group should continue stressing its dedicated involvement in the implementation of the goals of the Agency and supporting every action aimed at strengthening its capacity to fulfill its statutory functions, ensuring the necessary balance between promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency.

In this regard, it is of outmost importance that we continue working on the critical role of the IAEA in promoting the widest possible dissemination of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. We should continue pursuing the enhancement of the contribution of nuclear applications to human well-being and all the efforts related to assisting

developing interested Member States to launch their nuclear energy programs. And, in doing so, we will not forget strengthening the international cooperation in nuclear safety matters.

On the UNIDO front, we have to address the matter of refocusing its medium and long term programs to better take into account our needs and expectations. Economic, social development and energy should be the centerpiece of the objectives and operational activities. The achievement of agreed development goals, specially the Millenium Developing Goals, should continue to be the main objective of the Organization. Cleaner and resource efficient technologies and products have to be made available to our countries in order to achieve sustainable industrial development, creating employment and income to overcome poverty.

And we also have to lobby for better ways to improve energy policies as a long term solution.

Distinguished colleagues,

A final comment:

While performing my duties as Chairman of the Group I was always reassured by your permanent support, and I want to thank you for this. And I am sure that all of you share with me the conviction that we have to stay united working towards the achievement of our collective objectives, having always in mind the ideals and principles of our Group and its commitment to a just, equitable and non discriminatory international order.

Thank you very much.