

FORUM: DISEC

AGENDA ITEM: The regulation of Chemical Weapon Possession and Usage

DELEGATION: Argentine Republic

Argentina is a federal, presidential and constitutional republic which takes pride in having one of the cleanest records of human rights and living standards among all South American nations. Owing to its developing economy which is ranked second largest in South America, Argentina is considered to be both a regional and middle power in international affairs. It supports civil rights, its Human Development Index score is second only to Chile among Latin American countries. It has a rich culture, influenced by historical waves of immigrants coming from Europe. Argentina is well integrated into the international community, being a founding member of the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization, Mercosur, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Organization of Ibero-American States and a long time major non-NATO ally of the United States.

We recognize chemical weapons as weapons of mass destruction; distinct from nuclear, biological and radiological weapons. This makes them distinct from conventional weaponry as they are not primarily effective due to their explosive or incendiary potential. Chemical weapons can be widely dispersed in gas, liquid and solid forms, and may easily afflict others than the intended targets. These qualities make chemical weapons a concern of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, as this organization's primary aim is overseeing disarmament of the world's military forces if they are to ever pose an international security risk. Lethal unitary chemical agents and munitions constitute a class of hazardous chemical weapons that have been stockpiled by many nations. They have seen occasional usage in several recent military conflicts such as the Iran-Iraq War and the ongoing Syrian civil war. Because of the unignorable civilian casualties resulting from the usage of these weapons and the obvious threat posed to many other nations, including our close allies, the Argentine Republic sees this as an issue of international importance.

Ever since our democracy was restored in 1983, we have been strictly against the ownership of weapons of mass destruction. Argentina acceded to the Geneva Protocol on May 12, 1969 and has been active in non-proliferation efforts, ratifying the Biological Weapons Convention in 1979 and the Chemical Weapons Convention on October 2, 1995. In September 1991 Argentina signed the Mendoza Declaration, which commits signatories not to use, develop, produce, acquire, stock, or transfer chemical weapons. We encourage all other nations to undertake similar acts to preserve international political stability and regulate the possession of chemical weapons. We would like to emphasize the word "international" as we believe this is a matter which concerns every citizen of every country of the world. We expect to see cooperation from our already existing allies among Latin American and Caribbean nations and intend to establish new alliances with other nations as well.