

CHILE

MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST COMMITTEE
DELEGATION OF CHILE**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER ALFREDO LABBÉ
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CHILEAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

New York, 5 October 2004.

Mr. Chairman:

My Delegation associates itself fully to the *Grupo de Rio* statement presented yesterday by the Distinguished Delegation of Brazil. So, on this occasion Chile will limit its comments to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

The Hague Code of Conduct is completing its second year of formal activity. Thus the ongoing universalisation effort conducted by Subscribing States has increased the number of its membership to 115 States.

The Subscribing States pertain to all Regional and Political Groups, including some fifty NAM members.

The Code is a political undertaking intended to contribute positively to international security and to strengthen all Disarmament and Arms Control Treaties and mechanisms. Negotiated in a transparent manner and open to all the United Nations Members, the Code asserts its multilateral vocation and purpose.

We are convinced about the risks posed by the indiscriminate proliferation of Ballistic Missiles capable of delivering Weapons of Mass Destruction. Therefore, we strive for global security through politically binding measures such as the restraint in the development, testing and deployment of such Missiles. Also, by means of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures, including Annual Reports and pre-launch Notifications.

At the same time Subscribing States are vigilant with regard to the assistance provided to Space Launch Vehicle and Ballistic Missile programmes which might be associated to the development or acquisition of Weapons of Mass Destruction in contravention of International Law.

While recognising -as stated by the General Assembly in its Resolution 51/122 of December 13, 1996- that every State has the right to participate in the benefits of space for peaceful purposes, we believe that, in the process of reaping such benefits, they should not contribute to the proliferation of Ballistic Missiles.

To achieve these goals the Subscribing States have progressed in refining their tools and methods. We celebrated our Second Intersessional Meeting in Vienna, last June and we have gladly accepted the kind offer by Austria to hold the Third Regular Meeting on November 17 and 18.

As mandated by the Subscribing States, the Chilean Presidency reported last November to the Secretary General on the activities of the Code. The report -contained in document A/58/595-S/2003/1091- refers, among other subjects, to a strategy of cooperation with the United Nations system that includes an invitation to the Secretariat to participate as a Special Observer in the Third Regular Meeting.

The Presidency of the Code is carrying out consultations to introduce a draft Resolution to the First Committee, this year, with the aim to formalise a functional link with the United Nations. As we said in 2003 the Code is a political answer to the threat posed by the proliferation of Ballistic Missiles capable of delivering Weapons of Mass Destruction. Nevertheless, we do not consider it the sole possible response: as a political undertaking it can coexist with other initiatives and endeavours aimed at the same purpose.

Mr. Chairman:

Later this month, with the cooperation of Italy and Canada, Chile will host a Regional out-reach Seminar in Santiago at the premises of the reputed Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (or *FLACSO* in Spanish). Its goal is to promote the Code's universalisation within the Region that heralded the Nuclear Free Zones.

The Seminar will be one of the last out-reach activities implemented by the Chilean Presidency. In November, at musical Vienna, we shall be passing the baton to the Philippines, who has accepted the responsibility to lead the Subscribing States in their third year of consolidation.

Finally, mister Chairman, allow me use this opportunity to renew -once more- our open invitation to all non Subscribing States to join our ranks: all States genuinely engaged in the cause of peace and international security have a place among us.

Thank you very much.