Delegation from

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay

Position Paper for the International Atomic Energy Agency

Member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 1963, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay has been very active on the international discussion on nuclear energy by signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which is the first treaty to put a ban on nuclear weapons over a vast and populated area. By attending this committee, The Oriental Republic of Uruguay will gather with the international community and discuss the following topics: the threat of nuclear terrorism, nuclear energy as an alternate source of energy and the nuclear program in Iran.

**Topic 1: Threat of nuclear terrorism**

Firm believer that nuclear energy must not be used for weaponry, Uruguay strives towards the goal of global nuclear disarmament and will take any necessary actions to prevent the eventuality of nuclear terrorism. In the past years, our minister of foreign affairs has pushed for measures to enforce disarmament: “We must not stop, because to stop is to go backwards, and to go backwards is to expose humanity to the horrendous and inacceptable risk of nuclear holocaust” (Dr. Luis Almagro, minister of foreign affairs). The most effective method to reduce the risks of nuclear terrorism is gradual global disarmament. The less nuclear weapons the world has, the less likely it is for terrorist organizations to be able to use them. However, Uruguay is aware that global disarmament seems elusive and difficult to achieve due to the unwillingness of certain countries to be part of the global efforts. This is why the Oriental Republic of Uruguay recommends a more achievable approach to eliminate the risks of nuclear with security inspection of every nuclear energy facilities and nuclear weapon storage facilities in the world by the IAEA. These measures, specifically directed towards non-signatory Member States of the NPT, will assure the security of nuclear facilities of those countries against potential terrorist attack without constraining their nuclear operations. This offers a compromise which will hopefully help us reduce the risks of nuclear terrorism.

**Topic 2: Nuclear energy as a form of alternate energy**

Since 1997 with the enforcement of the law 16.832, the use of nuclear energy is prohibited in Uruguay. This was a result from the general fear of the population after the devastating Three Mile Island and Chernobyl nuclear power accidents. Furthermore, the Fukushima accident in 2011 consolidated and justified the fears as human lives and the ecosystem were permanently damaged. However, under the presidency of Tabaré Vázquez, a new debate considering alternative energy production such as nuclear energy was inevitable. In fact, the Argentinian energy crisis in 2004 also considerably affected Uruguay whose energy importation from Argentina dropping by 64%. To add on to that, the scarcity of rain that year caused a drop in the production of hydroelectricity which accounts for a big part of the Uruguayan energy production. In addition, an increasing demand in energy required more energy production methods have to be explored, including nuclear energy.

Currently, a committee is studying the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity and the installment of nuclear power plant. In the near future, Uruguay will seek help and advice from international organizations, such as The World Association of Nuclear Operators and the IAEA, in regards to the security of implementing of nuclear power plants in Uruguay.

**Topic 3: Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear program in Iran**

In 1957, the nuclear program in Iran was put into place as a part of the Atoms for peace programs. Even though the country pretended that the program had solely peaceful purposes, it was revealed in 2002 that Iran was secretly developing nuclear weapons. As mentioned before, Uruguay does not condone any use of nuclear energy for weaponry. This practice caused the international community to put Iran’s credibility into question and apply punitive actions. In 2013, as a result of negotiations, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was put into place. It restricts and closely monitors Iran’s nuclear activities for the next decades. In return, the international sanctions on Iran are lifted. This treaty aims to reinstate the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programs and to help the country regain its credibility in the international community. The Oriental Republic of Uruguay believes that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action can effectively discourage the development of nuclear weaponry in Iran and allows the international scene to closely monitor the activities. As a result, it does not require any further action.