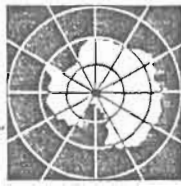


ARTICO

ESPECIAL

ANTARCTIQUE

CONFERENCE SPÉCIALE



ANTARCTIC TREATY

XIth SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ

XI СПЕЦИАЛЬНОЕ КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

VIÑA DEL MAR

19 - NOV. - 6 DIC. 1990

XI ATSCM/INFO 39

November 21, 1990

Original: English

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION

FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

STATEMENT HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

MR. CHAIRMAN

ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ELEVENTH SPECIAL ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING. I AM CONFIDENT THAT, UNDER YOUR WISE GUIDANCE, THIS MEETING WILL BRING OUR DELIBERATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE FOR THE EXCELLENT PREPARATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THIS MEETING.

FIRST OF ALL, MAY I ALSO EXTEND A HEARTFELT WELCOME TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NETHERLANDS AND ECUADOR AS NEW ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER WITH THEM WITHIN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM.

EVER SINCE THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CAME INTO THE WORLD, THE ANTARCTIC COMMUNITY HAS ENDEAVOURED TO DEMONSTRATE A STRONG CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT. OUR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES DATE BACK TO EARLY 1960'S. THE THIRD CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN 1964 HAS ALREADY ADOPTED "AGREED MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC FAUNA AND FLORA". AT SUBSEQUENT BIENNIAL MEETINGS, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES TO GUIDE THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF OUR ACTIVITIES.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES HAVE IMPROVED THE SCOPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, AND THE RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH THESE MEASURES IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE AND FORTHUGHT PREFERABLE TO AFTER-THOUGHT.

AS IT WAS IN THE PAST, OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SHOULD REMAIN VIABLE INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. IT WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND ADAPT ITSELF TO DEAL WITH NEW ISSUES AND NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE GATHERED HERE TODAY, WE ARE NOW TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES AND TO EXAMINE ALL PROPOSALS, AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY, I WOULD LIKE TO DELINEATE THE BASIC APPROACH OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH

REGARD TO THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

TO BEGIN WITH, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE UNDERLYING THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA BELIEVES THAT THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE A PRIME CONSIDERATION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN ANTARCTICA.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA BELIEVES THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE MEASURE SHOULD BE A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, WHICH ENSURES SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENT.

NEW INITIATIVES SHOULD NOT CONSTRAIN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ANTARCTIC. THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE ANTARCTIC CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOULD BE HARMONIZED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

MOREOVER, ANY NEW INSTRUMENT SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM, SO THAT IT DOES NOT ALTER OR COMPETE WITH THE EXISTING SYSTEM. IT SHOULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM.

FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM, THE TRADITIONAL COOPERATIVE SPIRIT OF ANTARCTIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE DAMPENED. IT IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR DESIRABLE THAT ANY NEW INSTITUTIONAL BODY, TO BE ESTABLISHED AS PART OF IT, WOULD HAVE UNPRODUCTIVE IMPACT ON THE EXISTING DECISION-MAKING MECHANISM.

MR. CHAIRMAN

ONE OF THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY HAS BEEN ITS ABILITY TO ADJUST AND ACCOMMODATE TO EMERGING CHALLENGES. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE SOUND REASONS TO BE PROUD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS OVER THE LAST THREE DECADES. WE HAVE CREATED A SYSTEM THAT WORKS.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THIS MEETING COULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE OUR EFFORTS TOWARD THE

PROTECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT.

MR. CHAIRMAN

WE AGREE THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT IS IMPERATIVE. MY DELEGATION WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER DELEGATES PRESENT AT THIS MEETING TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION AND SEEK FRUITFUL RESULTS ON THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT.

THANK YOU