

DECLARATION ON ASBESTOS OF THE XXVIII MEETING OF HEALTH MINISTERS OF THE STATE PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED STATES OF MERCOSUR

The Ministers of Health of MERCOSUR and Associated States, gathered at the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 9th 2010, for their XXVIII Meeting,

1 - Recognized that exposure to the fibers of all forms of asbestos can trigger crippling and severe lung diseases, constituting a serious public health problem, whose development does not depend on occupational safety policies and does not exclusively affect the working population.

2 - Considered the fact that a wide spectrum of the population are at risk through environmental exposure to asbestos fibers and reminded themselves that, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), about 100,000 deaths are caused worldwide every year by asbestos, which constitutes a serious public health problem.

3 - Recognized, in conformity with the World Health Organization, that the prohibition of the import, mining, production and trade of asbestos, both raw and contained in products, is necessary to protect the health of exposed populations.

4 - Considered exposure to asbestos as an indicator of inequality and, as such, recognized the need to promote and take action aimed at establishing the prohibition of the import, mining, production and trade of asbestos and products containing asbestos, in those countries of MERCOSUR and the Associate States which have not yet enacted this prohibition.

5 - Understood that it is essential that there be surveillance and control of risk situations that, in each country, determine directly or indirectly the exposure of the population - taking particularly into account asbestos that has already been installed - and recommended measures to ensure early diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of both affected persons and polluted environments.

6 - Urged that every possible opportunity for discussion be used to disclose the risks of exposure to asbestos, understanding that the provision of accurate, complete and timely information is a determinant of freedom of choice for both workers and consumers.

7 - Expressed the commitment of their Ministries to take steps, involving other competent areas of their governments, to develop and effectively implement national policies that advance the prohibition of the import, mining, production and trade of asbestos and products containing asbestos, in all the countries of MERCOSUR and associated States in which a ban has not yet been established.

XXVIII RMS – Buenos Aires, 09/VI/10



Juan Manzur
Por la República Argentina



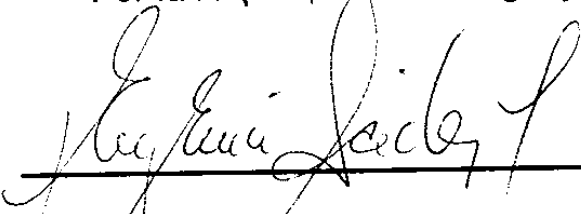
Reinaldo Felipe Nery Guimarães
Por la República Federativa de Brasil



Esperanza Martínez
Por la República del Paraguay



Daniel Olesker
Por la República Oriental del Uruguay



Eugenia Sader Castellanos
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Nila Heredia Miranda
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José Miguel Huerta
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