



MÉXICO

STATEMENT BY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO,
AMBASSADOR PATRICIA ESPINOSA CANTELLANO
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64TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
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(check against delivery)

Mr. President:

Since our last General Assembly, a number of crises have tested the capabilities of multilateral institutions to face them firmly and with a unified purpose. The international community understood that only through coordinated efforts, where developing countries were full-fledged participants, could give lasting responses to these emergencies. Fortunately, we foresee some positive signs of economic growth in some places.

But insecurity and uncertainty prevail. Insecurity that results from the persistence of armed conflicts, terrorism and transnational organized crime that threaten what we have achieved in terms of sustainable human development.

Uncertainty linked to the negotiations that will lead to the Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen this coming December. Global warming is now a threat to humanity of incalculable proportions. It is a threat to which we all contribute and regarding which we all, without exception, have responsibilities.

Contributing to a sustainable human development requires, first, conditions that enable international peace and security.

As President Felipe Calderón pointed out in the Security Council Summit, nuclear proliferation and the insufficient legal access to peaceful uses for atomic energy demand a renewed commitment for disarmament and the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

I also echo the energetic call of global civil society – made on the 62nd Annual DPI/NGO conference in Mexico – so that governments from all over the globe undertake our responsibilities to achieve our goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mr. President:

Promoting and protecting human rights is an obligation that no government can renounce to and is also a universal ethical imperative. The advances that have been registered in this field have been possible thanks to the complete linkage of my country with the international system to promote and protect human rights, which constitutes an invaluable tool to promote internal structural improvements.

It is clear that creating a sustainable human development requires that we cope with poverty and inequality, that we foster development that ensures access of all people to enough food, health, education and shelter.

Mr. President:

Regarding the health emergency faced by Mexico some months ago with the outbreak of A(H1N1) influenza, the World Health Organization lent its support to the timely, energetic and responsible actions of my government. This shows that the United Nations system can mobilize the coordinated actions of States and prevent unilateral measures that are not appropriate responses to this type of emergencies. We must continue to update our protocols for action.

To Mexico, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is a commitment undertaken by the State. Our priority continues to be eradicating poverty. We must make the necessary structural changes to reduce inequality and produce a shared prosperity.

We must implement policies that ensure concrete results on the Monterrey Consensus on development financing, the finalization of the Doha Round, the increase of contributions by developed countries and multilateral development banks to countries with a lesser growth.

To reduce inequality and increase the capacities of our people, it is imperative to address urgent needs, such as food. Food security is the unequivocal foundation of development. That is why we must procure it by eliminating market distortions, and boosting productivity with technology and improvements that do not generate setbacks on the environmental agenda.

The recent Group of 20 Summit in Pittsburgh has demonstrated that the magnitude of the global financial crisis required a firm response, including coordinating measures undertaken by each country to mitigate their impact in areas such as unemployment, for instance, to avoid protectionist policies. There is still much left to do, but a timely intervention by the G20 allowed further resources to be channeled to the international financial institutions, and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the decisions taken by them.

The United Nations must understand that we are witnessing a new configuration of the economic global governance, and that we must adjust our policies accordingly. We require an Organization that is strong, efficacious and efficient. The austerity that is imposed domestically by each country must also be reflected upon the budgets in the organisms that constitute the United Nations system.

If it were to remain passive, alienated, and complacent, our Organization risks losing relevance as the universal and legitimate forum to find a solution to the overarching problems of humanity.

Mr. President:

The challenges posed by global warming have shown that the absence of economic incentives is one of the main reasons that explain that the commitments in the Kyoto Protocol and the commitments in the Framework Convention Climate Change were not fulfilled.

For this reason, Mexico has promoted an innovatory financing scheme in the preliminary negotiations to the Copenhagen Conference – the Green Fund – that rewards the efforts of those States who adopt policies that are oriented to reducing the levels of greenhouse effect gases, without jeopardizing their development goals.

The Green Fund fully responds to the principle of common – but differentiated – responsibilities. It is not just another financial mechanism that responds to conventional criteria. All countries must be able to receive financing, but the scale of the contributions will result from a combination of factors that take into account, among others, the levels of development, the size of the population, and the volume of emissions. Least developed countries will not have an obligation to contribute.

This initiative of President Felipe Calderón has received a growing support by Member States and underscores the will of my government to jointly continue analyzing it in order to improve it.

Mr. President:

Negotiations to have an integral Security Council reform have had important steps forward resulting from a process that has debated all aspects and identified proposals that can garner the widest possible support. We must continue these negotiations with an aim to find compromise solutions that increase the representativeness of the Council, translate into better accountability, and do not jeopardize its efficacy.

The world has changed since 1945 without a doubt, and it keeps changing as the ongoing discussions on international economic and financial architecture demonstrate. It is absurd to argue for static institutions in a changing world.

Mr. President:

As we presented our candidacy as non-permanent members of the Security Council for the 2009-2010 term, Mexico announced that we would foster a closer communications between the Council and all Member States, which is essential to accomplish its tasks.

As presidents of the Council during April, Mexico had important transparency-related breakthroughs by having a large number of public consultations. We will keep working to enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Council:

First, by strengthening the works of the Council in preventing international crises related to massive human rights' violations and beefing-up the protection to the thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Second, by focusing the Council's attention on preventing – and not only administering – conflicts, by incorporating mandates on its resolutions that link security with a more robust assistance for development and humanitarian assistance.

Third, by making assistance for development a fundamental strategy on conflict prevention and reconstruction.

Mr. President:

Let us work together for world that is safer and more just; a world where, as the great Octavio Paz wanted, liberty can take roots; a world of prosperity anchored in the liberties and rights of individuals.

Thank you.