



Republic of Nicaragua

Statement by H.E Samuel Santos Lopez,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

General debate,

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President:

Thirty years after the triumph of the Popular Sandinista Revolution and the start of a process of popular and participatory democracy, on behalf of the President of Nicaragua, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, I salute and congratulate you on your appointment as President of this Assembly, and please allow me to address it.

Nicaragua is a country impoverished by historical circumstances not alien to the history and circumstances of the countries of our Latin American and Caribbean region, and even other countries around the world; a history repeated over time and space as we will outline later. Despite that, Nicaragua remains a land rich in beauty and natural resources. It is a nation symbolic of reconciliation and national and international unity.

Although it may be little known, our country is one of the safest in this continent. Nicaragua permanently and decisively combats organized crime and common crime in exemplary fashion, and with the recognition of international bodies and authorities. It does so, not only with coercive and punitive measures, but more significantly by building an alternative model of development that transforms the structures of poverty and marginalization that are the breeding ground of public safety problems. Our model is based on democratic reform, expressed in the popular will which we call "Citizen Power".

By means of the campaign "From Marti to Fidel", illiteracy has been reduced to 3.16%. We have made progress in preventive medicine and have successfully controlled pandemics such as the AH1N1 virus. In our country, mortality from this disease is the lowest in America. These achievements have been made possible by the generous solidarity of the fraternal people and government of Cuba that has been consistent and has continued the internationalist calling of Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz.

The government has opened the door to production credit. The FAO selected our school nutrition program as one of the top four in the world. In that spirit, President Daniel Ortega has proposed the adoption of a Central American Agriculture Policy to transform the region into a food production zone, and in that spirit we welcome and support the World Summit on Food Security set to take place in November of this year.

Thanks to the solidarity of the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela implemented by its President, Comandante Hugo Chávez, today we have a reserve of electrical power of 42.6 percent, although two years ago it was negative by 3.29 percent. Meanwhile, we continue to make efforts to promote the use of alternative renewable energy sources such as wind, geothermal and solar sources, and more recently the use of biomass, and also support initiatives aimed at developing civilian nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Clean drinking water has been made available to 217,000 families. We have launched programs such as Zero Hunger and Zero Usury, which were highlighted in a report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Food Security. In order to address the everyday lies of certain media in Nicaragua, in a paid advertisement, the FAO recently had to publish the positive results of the programs against hunger and extreme poverty which it coordinates with the Nicaraguan Government.

Food security cannot continue to be subjected to the greediness of a few, there is enough food to nourish double the world population, but every minute, around the world thousands die. While in some countries automobiles are fed, millions of boys and girls die with an empty stomach. This, Mr. President, is simple criminal.

We also express our profound rejection of the discrimination and persecution of immigrants and support without reservations full respect of their human rights.

Dear friends: Nicaragua is the enemy of terrorism in any of its forms, including state terrorism. It is for this and many other reasons that we oppose the criminal embargo against the heroic people of Cuba who have witnessed the birth of almost six generations during the existence of the embargo. How many more generations must survive it? How many more resolutions on this topic must this Assembly adopt? There are already seventeen, Mr. President.

It is also of interest to this Assembly, or indeed should be, that while a criminal murderer of Cuban athletes enjoys total liberty, five antiterrorist Cubans are imprisoned under inhumane conditions for the sole crime of being none other than antiterrorists.

Today's Nicaragua is an active militant in favor of solidarity, as well as a militant supporter of gratitude. Therefore, we appreciate the disinterested collaboration of sister nations that contribute to the economic and social development of our people. Therefore, we also embrace the just cause of Puerto Rico's independence, and support the return of the Malvinas Islands to the hands of its rightful owner, the Argentine people, and in the same manner we join the struggle of the Sahrawi people as well as the struggle of the Cypriot people's. We also make a call to Israel that it withdraw from the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian territories. We stand unconditionally by the side of the Palestinian people in their daily fight for their own Sovereign State, which is why we advocate a peaceful, just and permanent solution that guarantees peace in that region. And one year after their independence we congratulate the peoples of Abkhasia and Southern Ossetia, and inform that we have already established diplomatic relations with Abkhasia.

We support the new and positive focus Taiwan has adopted in its relations with the People's Republic of China, as well as its participation in United Nations specialized organs and agencies.

We condemn the coup in Honduras and, from this moment we assert our definitive decision not to recognize the results of any electoral farce in that country. With this coup they sought to kill the democratic hopes and initiatives of the Honduran people, just as they sought to thwart the fraternal process that is the ALBA. Nonetheless, a change in Honduras that surpasses a formal and hypocritical democracy will be inevitable.

The time has come, Mr. President, to make the General Assembly a harbinger where substantive decisions are taken, which cannot be substituted. We cannot continue to have a Security Council with an abusive veto privilege.

The time has also come for cooperation without humiliating preconditions, for the construction of the most beautiful dream of Bolivar and Sandino, the dawn of a realistic and coherent solidarity. I speak of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of our Americas, integrated by the peoples of Antigua & Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Venezuela, as well as the Honduras of the resistance. The "ALBA" is the basis for the horizontal and inclusive cooperation between our peoples. Its membership increases day by day.

Mr. President,

I cannot but mention, with profound concern, that today we have met under the same or worse world economic circumstances as a year ago, when the worse world economic depression ever suffered was added to the existing food, energy and environmental crises.

Unfortunately, these world crises come up against decreased official development assistance, which is still made conditional by the international financial institutions, and also against the reluctance of the developed countries to replace the present model with one that is more just and more respectful of Mother Nature. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development announced that the G-192, as it was baptized by my brother Father Miguel d'Escoto, does have something to say regarding world economic matters. It is within the most representative institution that economic policies affecting millions should be decided, and not within groups, such as the G-8 and the G-20, that are promoters of the model of domination by the few over the majority, a model which is characterized by exclusion. In that regard, we welcome the Special Open-ended Working Group which will follow up on the outcome of this Conference.

For some years now, climate change has become not a threat to the future, but a present that is threatening. We believe that the Conference on Climate Change which will take place in Copenhagen on 7 to 18 December 2009, should no longer be a debate on the need to act, but rather that the developed countries

should fulfill their historic responsibility, under the Kyoto Protocol, and cease their attempts to break down the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

It is time for attitudes and actions to reflect a true commitment to counteracting the harmful effects of global warming. We firmly believe that it is the exclusive responsibility of the General Assembly – and in no case, the responsibility of the Security Council – to seek the necessary consensus and commitments in order that we move forward in this struggle, which is a struggle for the survival of ALL humanity.

Dear friends, it is not possible to democratize selfishness, exclusion, and the manipulation of the truth. It is not possible to put a kind face on perversion, on arrogance. That is the essence of the prevailing economic system: the exploitation of one human by another, the subjugation of nations, the hoarding of wealth by the few. This is why we are in crisis, not due to a lack of resources, but because of the concentration of resources in a few hands, because of the disdain for our environment, because of the replacement of values, because of human arrogance toward other species and worst of all, disdain toward human life itself.

Friends: we are optimistic. It becomes necessary to replace and find alternatives to the current socio-economic and political model which leads to unjustified interventions such as that in Iraq and Afghanistan and the one now being committed against our region with the establishment of military bases in Colombia under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking.

It draws our attention intensely that despite the 7 billion 558 million dollars invested, drug-trafficking from Colombia increases evermore. In 1999, at the beginning stage of "Plan Colombia" the amount of drug-trafficking to the United States and Europe was an annual 600 metric tons. In 2009, this trafficking has doubled to 1,450 metric tons. In other words, the strategy of militarizing Colombia has failed, and the numbers I have cited are absolute proof of this.

The true objective of installing these "seven daggers in Latin America", as they are called by Comandante Fidel Castro, is to salvage the death-bound economic and political system with which capitalism flaunts its power, through hemispheric control of water, oil and biodiversity.

We trust in the strengthening of energetic and progressive positions in the defense of peace and respect for the sovereignty of the countries of our region. We are sure that this will ultimately serve to further advance the Latin American unity dreamt by Bolivar, Morazán, Martí and Sandino.

Today, Fidel Castro and revolutionary Cuba's solidarity has been greatly multiplied and is more prevalent than ever. The wide world of Latin America has ceased to be foreign, and as Miguel d'Escoto would say during his particularly outstanding Presidency of the General Assembly, *"The current scenario is not*

that of a tragedy but of a crisis. A crisis purifies, present pain is not a death omen, but the omen of a new birth."

Finally, I wish to inform the General Assembly that Nicaragua, which is respectful of international law, has abided by the ruling of the International Court of Justice in its decision of 13 July 2009, and has issued a Presidential Decree to regulate navigation in the Río San Juan (San Juan River), whose full, absolute and unquestionable sovereignty belongs to Nicaragua as was recognized by the ruling.

Greetings to all of you on behalf of our President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and all Nicaraguans who sing to Darío and who proudly carry on Sandino's legacy, in order to defend ourselves with peace and dignity. Nicaragua, Mr. President and dear friends, feels proud of its devotion to peace, honor, solidarity, and the relentless struggle against injustice.

Thank you very much.