



MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Statement
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru,
H.E. José Antonio García Belaúnde,
at the General Debate of 64th Period of Sessions of
the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 28 September 2009

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you for your election as President of the Sixty Fourth Period of Sessions of the General Assembly. We are aware of your wide experience in the United Nations field and of your vocation for dialogue and for reaching consensus. Allow me to assure that Peru will support your initiatives in a constructive way.

Mr. President,

The global panorama is extremely complex and shows big inconsistencies.

We are facing the deepest economic and financial international crisis experienced by this generation, which corroborates once more that the frontiers in a global world are cartographic and that the sign of our time is the interdependency.

The economic and financial crisis has affected the world growth and has revealed the weaknesses that permitted a market failure.

As few times in recent history, the international community has mobilized huge resources and political capital to avoid an unprecedented economic collapse. A significant part of those resources must support developing countries, who did not cause the crisis, but that are the most affected by it.

It is regrettable that the convergence of wills and interests around the crisis is not expressed with the same determination to reach the Millennium Development Goals in the year 2015 and to face seriously the threats that endanger liberty, democracy and, ultimately, the regional and global stability.

(Military expenditures)

In this context, allow me to mention that one of the critical problems we face is the huge sum dedicated to the acquisition of armaments. How can we explain to our peoples that, in the middle of one of the most serious world economic recessions and before the existence of more than 1 billion people in extreme poverty in the world, countries dedicate more than 1,464 billion dollars to military expenses in 2008, that is, while the economies decrease, armament expenditures are increased in constant terms every year.

Recently, the President of Peru, Dr. Alan García, through a communication, sent to Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers of South America, that is being circulated as a document of this Assembly, seriously questioned this situation in the region asking why in the last five years, since the creation of UNASUR (Union of South American Nations), our countries have devoted to military expenditures a total of 156 billion dollars, besides additional 23 billion dollars in new weapons, cannons, airplanes and ships.

This expense could increase up to 38 billion dollars in 2009. President García made a call to stop this absurdity, through the creation of conditions that facilitate to strengthen security and confidence in the region.

Because of it, I ratify in this opportunity the proposals of Peru to subscribe a Non-Aggression Pact that guarantees the commitments to consolidate a Zone of Peace in South America and to achieve its gradual reduction, as well as the creation in the future of a Peacekeeping and Interposition Force to impede any conflict in the region. The final objective is to create a regional collective security system, that complements and follows the Charter of the United Nations, aimed at allowing all our

countries to stop the arms race in which South America seems to be absorbed, without any reason, being a region that is showing great maturity and respect to International Law in the management of its contentious matters. Our proposals will surely require a deeper study and consideration, having as a scenario background the experiences lived in other latitudes.

(Narcotic drugs trafficking)

Mr. President,

A second transnational threat that is not receiving duly attention is the narcotic drugs trafficking and its dangerous link with terrorism and violence in general, whose consequences affect not only the security and rights of millions of people, but also the environment.

We pay an enormous cost for our inaction in a problem that causes millions of deaths per year and invaluable material losses.

In a global level, the illegal traffic of narcotic drugs mobilizes around 500 billion dollars per year – equivalent to 8% of world trade – while its consumption, according to data of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), affects to more than 200 million persons, specially young people everywhere.

According to the 2008 report of the International Narcotics Control Board, it is evident that the networks of narcotic drugs trafficking in South America share among themselves their illicit activities, specially the money laundering, and they are recruiting intelligence experts and specialists of the highest technical level in every sector.

Therefore, it is urgent that the fight against narcotic drugs trafficking takes up again a central position in the world agenda and in the cooperation agenda of developed countries, in compliance with the principle of shared responsibility.

We must jointly respond to stop the advance of narcotic drugs trafficking and related criminal activities, such as traffic of weapons and people, destruction of nature, corruption or terrorism. The legislation, interdiction and eradication of illicit crops should complement with programs of prevention, rehabilitation and integral alternative and sustainable development, for which the cooperation among all actors of the international scenario is necessary, under the principles of cooperation and shared responsibility.

In Peru, drug dealers are working together with the remnants of terrorist groups. This situation exponentially increases violence of both criminal groups and, if we do not solve the problem now, perhaps we will be in a situation of unsuspected consequences in the future.

The illicit production of coca leaf is one of the largest predatory factors of nature. It is necessary to devastate three hectares of forests to obtain one hectare of coca. In the Peruvian Amazon forest it is causing an irreparable damage: the logging and burning of forests to increase illegal crops erode the ground and has caused the deforestation of two million five hundred thousand hectares of Amazon forest, which is the main contributor to global warming.

For all these reasons, the Government of Peru has dedicated special attention to the problem, as well with financial resources as with human resources. But many times the results make us feel that this is a solitary effort, before which the international community, and specially the countries of greater consumption of narcotic drugs, does not offer an adequate and rapid answer.

Peru, that dedicates more than 600 million dollars per year to fight an illicit activity that produces and traffics 22 billion dollars, cannot fight alone the illicit production of drugs, neither to be successful in a long-term without the firm and supportive cooperation of the international community and, particularly, of the consuming countries based on the principle of shared responsibility.

Nevertheless, the real cooperation has diminished alarmingly since the year 2002. The greater source of cooperation with Peru reduced its contribution from 140 to 128 million dollars in 2003; to 116 in 2004; this year amounts to 70 million and next year will be 57 million.

Therefore, Peru considers as a necessity the elaboration of a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with updated figures of the global resources that the international cooperation dedicates to fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, of the sources of cooperation and of specific on-going projects, as well as identifying key programs to intensify the cooperation with the most affected countries by the illicit production of narcotic drugs.

This exact, reliable and internationally comparable information can clear many myths on the efforts and the joint action that we should undertake without delay, and constitute the practical starting point to initiate a closer coordination of cooperating States, international organizations and financial institutions with the most affected States by the illicit production and the traffic of illicit narcotic drugs, so that the fight of these countries against the traffic of narcotic drugs be fortified.

We expect this can be carried out in the shortest term because, I reiterate, the international action cannot be postponed.

(Climate change)

Mr. President,

Another sensitive issue that has deserved a special debate is the climate change and the preservation of environment in general. Peru suffers in a dramatic way the effects of global warming in the accelerated backwards of its tropical glaciers and the subsequent problems for the adequate attention of its population water requirements.

Peru estimates that is indispensable to establish concrete objectives related to the cooperation and technological transfer, as well as to the creation of funds that offer financial cooperation to develop projects that fight directly the effects of climate change in the most affected countries.

Before the urgency to face the adverse effects of climate change, Peru supports the continuous establishment of international binding commitments for the countries of origin of the problem, and hopes that in the XV International Conference on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen next December all States be willing to adopt them.

In such sense, Peru reiterates its proposal to establish a financial mechanism for the creation of a world fund destined to support measures of mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in developing countries. It is a matter of application of a duty of \$ 0,5 per oil barrel, while there is a responsibility in the whole production line of the fuel, from its extraction, through its refining, to its direct and indirect uses.

Likewise, Peru proposes to promote the establishment of integrated programs of adaptation to climate change. These programs, that could be financed by the Global Environment Facility and/or the World Bank, have as objective an integral approximation in the sectoral plans of adaptation and, simultaneously, put emphasis on strategies for the reduction of disasters, the protection of health of

the affected population, its food security as well as on the protection of the economic infrastructure and biodiversity.

(Human rights of the migrant)

Finally, Mr. President, we wish to give due consideration to an issue also of special interest for Peru, and for developing countries in general, that is the situation of the migrants.

Peru is an active promoter of the defense of human rights of migrant persons and their families and of the responsibility shared by the countries of origin and host countries in dealing with this phenomenon. It defends the principle that migrations are a tool of development.

It is undeniable that migration has been along the history of humanity a factor of development. It has enriched culture and social life of countries; it has permitted that we make contact with contributions, discoveries and developments that have formed progressively our modern society. It is necessary to be aware that for host countries the contribution made by migrants, at this time and in the future, will be the backbone that will support their societies. It is in that measure that should be avoided the xenophobic and discriminated pressures, which delay the pace of an inevitable integration of the world and of human race.

Mr. President

In Latin America we live a crucial moment for the consolidation of democracy and the promotion of the social and political rights of our peoples.

Because of that, Peru would like to express its deep concern for the facts happened in a brother country, Honduras, where the democratic system has been interrupted abruptly. In the current situation, the different measures adopted against the facilities of the diplomatic Representation of Brazil in that country also deserve our repudiation, which must cease immediately by virtue of the obligations and the legal tradition of Honduras, as a country respectful of its international duties, and particularly of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

We make a call for a dialogue that leads to the re-establishment of the democratic system in that country. The return of President Manuel Zelaya to Tegucigalpa should be used by all the Honduran political forces in order to establish a government of unity and national reconciliation, according to the San José Agreement, that allows, through absolutely peaceful means, to advance toward free, democratic and transparent elections that guarantee the election of a government respectful of its Constitution, that promotes national integration and solidarity for all and every Honduran citizen.

Mr. President,

Now, that due to communications and technologies we are closer than never before, we must also understand that the problems and responsibilities should bring us also closer and that the challenges of a State are challenges of all of us. This Assembly, therefore, is the most adequate to discuss these global and local challenges that, in the current time, are identical and should concern us and, why not, give hope to all.

Thank you.