

# CHILE

MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

---

---

Check against delivery

**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE  
H.E. MR. RICARDO LAGOS ESCOBAR**

**AT THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, 21st September 2004.**

Mr. President, Your Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, I wish to express the satisfaction that we feel in seeing you preside over this fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly and we wish you a successful Presidency.

Mr. President,

Since the signing of the Charter at San Francisco, and before that during the time of the League of Nations, Chile has been firmly committed to the international community, to multilateral cooperation, and to the best values of peace, security, development and human rights which this Organization represents.

Chile has been an active participant in the international system because we believe that governance at the global level is the logical extension of the institutional order that each State has achieved and can show in this global forum.

While in the last century our main task was to establish rules of coexistence and conduct for the international community, today, faced with the challenges of the twenty-first century, that task has become more urgent and ineluctable.

What we have before us is a panorama of positive opportunities, on the one hand, and complex threats, on the other.

For countries such as ours, integration into the global community creates opportunities which a closed society would preclude.

We see in integration into the global community possibilities for growth, for creating space for our efforts, and this is the inescapable destiny of all of us.

Countries need freedom, peace, security and respect for international law and, based on scrupulous respect for treaties, we need to work towards the building of a shared global order.

Stability can be achieved only through governance under which all interests are represented.

Thus we have voices being raised in different countries stating something that is evident: **no one can shape the world that is emerging except through agreements and negotiations.** The complexity of the world emerging before our eyes is too great to be handled in a centralized manner.

Of course, little will be achieved if at the same time each country does not put its own house in order. Without justice, solidarity and respect for human rights, there can be no stable or genuinely beneficial governance in the medium term.

It is the responsibility of each of our societies to apply the principles of the United Nations, to make them realities. And we have an ethical duty to be efficient and effective in the attainment of these goals and ideals.

As is evident, globalization also includes negative aspects that can affect us all.

Today, we are afflicted by public evils, such as terrorism and organized crime; illicit trafficking in persons, arms and drugs; as well as the money laundering associated with these activities.

Nothing is more counter to our principles than terrorism, a virtual "dark force" of globalization. Accordingly, here in the United Nations, Chile has contributed through its efforts in chairing both the Al Qaeda/Taliban Security Council Sanctions Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, key instruments of the international community for waging this combat.

Globalization also has negative spillover effects on the environment and exacerbates the marginalization of millions of people in societies or even continents who are unable to achieve integration into the global economy and global society.

Faced with this reality of light and shadows, countries like Chile have a stake in helping to improve the positive aspects of globalization and to eliminate its negative aspects.

But how do we turn these aims into reality?

In our view, the best way to guide the agenda of globalization is through multilateralism. It is in the strengthening of multilateralism that each country has a stake and a national task to fulfill.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Chile has assumed its responsibility to the global community and has sought to be consistent with our values and convictions.

Last year, with regard to Iraq, **we said that only the United Nations could give** the necessary legitimacy for the use of force and for dealing with threats to peace in an effective and united way.

For that reason, and **in order to be consistent with our commitment to multilateralism, we said yes** to the United Nations when the Security Council requested the presence of a Multinational Interim Force (MIF) in Haiti. We reacted in solidarity by dispatching to Haiti, in less than 72 hours, a military force and humanitarian assistance.

We have shown that our region is capable of assuming the responsibilities imposed by international peace and security.

Not since the period of our national independence have forces from different Latin American countries acted collectively and independently of the Great Powers in a mission to maintain peace in one of our countries.

Today in Haiti the troops of a number of Latin American countries, supplemented by the joint Spanish/Moroccan force, are under the command of a Brazilian general and the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General is a Chilean.

Mr. President,

If we wish to strengthen multilateralism, reform of the United Nations is becoming increasingly necessary. While its ideals and founding purposes remain valid, the structure of power upon which the Organization was built at its inception corresponds to a world that is very different from today's world.

We need not only to expand the Security Council to make it more democratic. Comprehensive reform of the Organization is also needed.

In addition, the United Nations needs specialization, not a proliferation of similar institutions. It needs greater accountability and a more transparent system of recruitment. It needs to derive the maximum benefit from every last cent that it spends.

Many of our States are making these or similar changes in their public systems. The United Nations can be better than us in this area.

I have had the opportunity to exchange ideas with some members of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and I am now convinced that this Panel will make recommendations to the Secretary-General for strengthening two key areas: first, obtain a political commitment to reaffirm the values of the Charter of the United Nations, and, secondly, give the system the strength it needs to face the challenges and opportunities of a global world.

The world needs more of the United Nations and a better United Nations. We are faced with unacceptable humanitarian crises, such as in Darfur, Sudan; the steady deterioration in the outlook for peace in the Middle East; terrorist attacks, such as in Beslan, Russia, and outside the embassy of Australia in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In the Security Council, Chile supported the transfer of national sovereignty to the people of Iraq and we look forward to the elections scheduled for next January. In Afghanistan, electoral assistance by the United Nations has been crucial to the preparations for the elections scheduled for early October.

The world to which we aspire will be better and show greater solidarity with the effective participation of citizens. It is in this spirit that we will be hosting next year in Chile the Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies.

We are thus convinced that globalization will be better only if civil society is recognized as one of its principal actors.

This consideration has been a decisive factor in the Action against Hunger which, together with the leaders of Brazil, France, Spain and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, we have promoted as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Goals in this area.

Some of the actions proposed are dependent on the decisions of Governments but **others are the responsibility of multilateral organizations and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, the business sector, trade unions and universities.** It is time to recognize that, in practical terms, the monopoly of States over international affairs has ended.

Many wonder if reform is possible. Why would the powerful yield any part of their power?

Our modest experience is that it is possible to negotiate, for example, free trade with the most developed countries in the world and reach agreements that are beneficial to both sides. Today, two thirds of our exports are covered by trade agreements and more than one half is already subject to zero tariffs.

This is not a simple matter. It takes time, preparation and patience. And why not say it? It causes a degree of conflict. Trade agreements in and of themselves do not resolve certain issues that can be resolved only at the multilateral level.

That is why we need to successfully conclude the Doha Round, because key issues are at stake, such as anti-dumping, the status of agricultural products and textiles, various complex issues related to intellectual property, and how to deal with pandemics using generic or low-cost drugs.

In this regard, common sense is of greater use than dogmatism. You cannot ask others to renounce their fundamental interests, just as you cannot expect complacency with an unbalanced outcome.

Integration into the global society is a staircase with many steps. What is important is not to lose the sense of progress.

Progress toward free but fair trade; free but not predatory capital flows; cultural expansion but not destruction of the local; exchange of ideas but not lockstep thinking. In short, pluralism so that we can all be better.

Mr. President,

I have sought to share with you and with this Assembly the vision and responsibilities of a country of the South, open to and interdependent with the world.

Our modest experience has taught us that it is vitally important to strengthen multilateralism as the only approach that has the necessary legitimacy to ensure solidarity and inclusiveness in globalization.

**The world today needs more and not less United Nations. More and not less multilateralism.** Our experience teaches us that this is possible, that we can make our shared dreams a reality.

**Thank you very much.**