



Argentina

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DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

DEBATE GENERAL

**Intervención del Dr. Néstor Carlos Kirchner
Presidente de la República Argentina**

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**UNITED NATIONS
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GENERAL DEBATE

**Statement by Dr. Néstor Carlos Kirchner
President of the Argentine Republic**

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Mme. President of the General Assembly, Haya Rashed Al Califa,

I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this General Assembly, since I believe it is very significant for a woman to have taken this role, in order to foster gender equality, a goal both of my Government and of the United Nations.

On behalf of the Argentine Republic we would also like to congratulate the President of the 60th General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson, for the work he carried out, and to renew our recognition to Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his role in favor of peace, multilateralism and the fight against poverty.

On behalf of the Argentine people we would like to warmly welcome the Republic of Montenegro in its admission to this Organization. We look forward to working together for multilateralism.

We have come to this General Assembly in the firm belief that the revitalization of this forum of global representation is fundamental so that international law can be the instrument of rationality that will enable us to settle conflicts and to face the threats to peace.

The international conduct of the Argentine Republic is inspired by the values of representative democracy, respect for the fundamental human rights and the active defense of international peace and security. These principles, shared by the vast majority of the Argentine people, guide our administration and are the basis of the foreign policy decisions that Argentina makes.

In the field of human rights, after over two decades of sustained democratic rule in Argentina, we experienced in 2003 a true paradigm shift.

In response to the mandates of the whole of society, the three powers of the state have adopted, within their respective scopes, coinciding decisions against impunity preserving memory, truth, justice and granting reparations.

The annulment by Congress of the laws that accorded impunity for crimes of State-sponsored terrorism, the ruling of their unconstitutionality and that of the pardons granted by the courts in our country, and the reopening of over a thousand court proceedings for crimes against humanity -some of which have resulted in the conviction of torturers- constitute landmarks of such shift.

It is our conviction that democracy is strengthened with the simultaneous fight against impunity and the promotion of full respect for the rule of law, without any vindictiveness.

With the perspective gained through this experience, we have strongly supported, since the beginning of the UN system reform, the enthronement of human rights so as to upgrade the institutional level of their treatment to that already given to development and to the maintenance of international peace and security.

This determination led us to the establishment of the Human Rights Council, in whose creation Argentina participated actively.

The first steps of this organ have been positive, having adopted the draft International Convention on the protection of all persons against enforced disappearances. This is an instrument of great significance for our country, as it provides for the legal typification of a crime against humanity that the Argentine people have suffered massively in its past, with a very high cost to our society.

We hope the General Assembly will adopt this very important instrument shortly, during this 61 session.

Five years from the attacks that shocked this city and the world, we would like to firmly condemn the serious threat of global terrorism.

Argentina considers all acts of terrorism against innocent civilians are criminal and unjustifiable, and accepts no argument attempting to justify attacks against the civil population.

We the Argentine people suffered two atrocious attacks in the 1990s that shocked our society, against the Embassy of Israel and the headquarters of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA). We are still struggling, in spite of the time that has elapsed, to fully clarify the facts and punish the culprits.

We believe that, in order to face this criminal threat successfully, we must carry out a multilateral and legitimate response that is sustained through time.

Respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law is essential, and so are the international cooperation and legal assistance to effectively enforce the norms against terrorism.

If, in order to face up to global terrorism, we resort to a global violation of human rights, the only winner in this fight shall be terrorism.

We will only advance firmly in the fight against terrorism if we frame it within respect for local laws and international norms and conventions. No complication can be an excuse for not combating terrorism with legality.

Peace is built and maintained by understanding the true concept of solidarity among nations, from a wider dimension than the purely military or the predominantly unilateral.

Nations big and small, rich and poor, will be exposed to a marked vulnerability if we do not understand that the fight against terrorism demands a multilateral, intelligent action sustained over time and firmly based in legitimacy, respect for the fundamental rights, proportionality in the response and the support of international public opinion.

We would like to express our concern regarding the hostilities in the border between Israel and Lebanon, resulting in hundreds of casualties, severe damage to the civilian infrastructure and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

Violence must be stopped. We need to address the causes that are in the origin of the crisis, avoid the disproportionate use of force, and understand that only negotiated political solutions can hold in the long term.

Argentina will continue to support a fair solution to the Middle East problems, within the framework of Resolution 1701.

We must understand that the world will come closer to peace insofar as it promotes equality and struggles to eradicate poverty and exclusion. This is true both for the global system and for each country nationally.

Argentina supports the building of societies that are fairer, more equitable and with a better distribution of the benefits of economic growth. We also believe that each country has the right to search for its own development model, without any external conditionalities. We not only aspire to generate a sustainable growth, we also want for it to reach everyone. There must be a harmonized growth that translates into a balanced income distribution - we know that what is needed is not development for only a few, but the development of the whole country.

In the region and in MERCOSUR, we want to have an efficient instrument to deal with poverty and exclusion - for the common good to prevail over sectarian interests and to overcome stagnation and the technology gap. And to define a sustainable and productive development model that appreciates our competitive advantages and that fosters our vast wealth in human and material resources.

The economic situation of the Republic is very different than it was when our administration began. We are achieving a true structural change. Uninterrupted growth at rates around 9%; growing participation of investment in the GDP; record local saving rates; resurrection of the local industry; fiscal surplus at historic levels; clear expansion of our industrial sales to the world; systematic decrease of the local and external public debt; preventive accumulation of reserves; lesser external exposure; marked drop in unemployment; strengthening of the income of the wage-earning and of retirees; significant fall of poverty and destitution levels.

With a prudent monetary policy, an orderly fiscal policy, fiscal and commercial surplus and a responsible management of indebtedness, we are increasingly reducing the vulnerability and uncertainty that characterized Argentine economy in the past.

Decent work, social inclusion, national production, internal consumption and sustained growth have allowed us to fulfill the Millennium Goals, although there is still a long way to go to recover from the hell we had fell into.

We seek the integral sustainability of this process, not only in the macro-economic aspects, but also guaranteeing social equity and a fairer distribution of income through the reduction of poverty and unemployment.

By implementing a National Education Plan, with a strong federal emphasis, that highlights the challenge of improving the quality of education, ensures the growing funding of the public sector and interacts with the private sector, we seek to also achieve its strategic sustainability.

We cannot but point out that these achievements have not been accompanied by the International Monetary Fund, which has denied us any kind of aid, and -we must say it- in many cases are the result of ignoring or even contradicting its recommendations and conditionalities.

We have enough empirical proof of the failure of international financial organizations in the promotion of development in less developed countries. In many cases, their conditionalities have actually had the opposite effect, hindering development.

The world has changed and these organizations have not. But they still insist in jeopardizing advancement with their misguided interference. That is why we support, together with most countries, the reform of the international financial architecture so it becomes functional to the progress of the nations with fewer resources. In verifying the reluctance of international financial organizations to produce a real change in the policies they are implementing, we consider it necessary to agree on such a change and to consider the creation of new international financial instruments that allow us to fund development projects aiming at fighting poverty and hunger in the world and at generating true options for progress.

Argentina is preoccupied to observe the stagnation in the negotiations of the Doha Round for the development of the WTO. It is imperative, within the current globalization process -of which developing countries must also profit- to reach a successful and balanced result, fully consistent with the mandate of the Doha Declaration. Thus, we reaffirm the need to reach a satisfactory result in agriculture in this WTO Round, including a substantial reduction in domestic subsidies, the elimination of export subsidies and ample access to the markets of developed countries.

We are increasingly concerned to see the deterioration of the global environment.

We affirm that there can be no double standards. The environment must be protected both in developed and in developing countries, in rich and in poor countries, in countries in the North and in the South, in the central and in the peripheral countries.

In developing their industries the more industrialized countries have profited from a true environmental subsidy from the rest of the countries which today form, in their relative backwardness, a true world environmental reserve.

That is why we cannot admit that those countries that have achieved a greater development -often at the expense of the degradation of the environment and by producing a severe global effect evident in climate change- attempt to transfer to us the more contaminating part of their industrial processes.

There can be no reliable solutions without the concerted action of all countries in the world; insofar the nature of the problem is of global scale.

It is unacceptable to see that developing states claims go unnoticed. It is imperative to travel the path of solutions.

Our countries wish to receive investments and present profitable opportunities, in the energy, transportation and infrastructure fields, and even in sensitive sectors. There lays a huge ground for international collaboration.

But we do not want investors to carry out activities here that are prohibited in the industrialized countries, in order to improve the profits of shareholders by creating the illusion of a product allegedly less expensive, by raising the costs in environmental pollution, health deterioration and the drop in life expectancy.

On a different subject, we regard with high importance our participation, together with other countries in the region, in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

In our view, beyond the advances achieved in the transition, the steady support and economic assistance from the international community will continue to be fundamental in the areas of security, the strengthening of institutions, the fostering of political dialogue, the protection of human rights, social inclusion, the promotion of the rule of law, the creation of administrative capacity and, above all, the promotion of economic and social development through concrete contributions.

We ratify here our will to achieve peaceful nuclear development, under the verification of international organizations.

The commitment of Argentina to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, our adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and our long-standing practice in the field are known to every one.

In concluding, Mme. President, since 1965 the 'Question of the Malvinas Islands' -which comprises Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime area- is being considered by the United Nations.

The General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization have defined this question as a particular and special case that differs from traditional colonial situations in that it involves a sovereignty dispute that needs to be resolved by means of bilateral negotiations between my country and the United Kingdom, in accordance with what was established in Resolution 2065 and other relevant Resolutions.

We cannot but point out that the government of the United Kingdom persists in ignoring this General Assembly resolutions.

I would nevertheless like to reaffirm once more the permanent readiness of our country for a constructive dialogue with the United Kingdom and to call upon them to promptly heed the request of the international community to resume the negotiations.

In conclusion, we would like to express our firm belief in the existence of perspectives for an international cooperation that can make the world move towards peace.

The existence of tensions and the difficulties Humanity is going through must not prevent us from realizing the steep decline of the authoritarian idea that the accumulation of military power can ensure unilateral solutions to conflicts and to threats. This false illusion has only led to gigantic failure and has provoked great suffering.

If with limitations, it is the multilateral solutions, it is the arduous processes of negotiation, which show as the best way, the best alternative.

In this context, the United Nations are called upon to play a fundamental role for a better understanding among nations in order to ensures a safe, peaceful and fairer world in the coming years.

Thank you.