



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR,
DOCTOR ALFREDO PALACIO
AT THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, September 20, 2006

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Madame Chair Person,
Delegates,

The world bipolar system, from which the Organization of the United Nations was born, died with the Cold War. The 21st century demands from the world a new vision of the concept of International Law and of the relations between peoples and States.

One year ago, Ecuador raised the need to advance towards a new world order built on three bases: economy, international law, and biology. This need has become an urgent mandate. We summon the planet to instate this new tripod, which includes biology.

Never before has there been so much money available; however, poverty continues to grow, and hunger and misery take their toll of human lives each day. Life on Earth deteriorates.

The harmonious reproduction of human beings is threatened, and the world –including developed countries– has not been able to find a responsible answer.

There are still vast areas (Sub-Saharan Africa, sectors in Latin America and Asia) where entire populations, millions of human beings, are on the brink of extinction.

While in Japan, Hong Kong and Iceland, life expectancy at birth exceeds 80 years, in Botswana and Lesotho it barely exceeds 36 years.

While in Sweden, Singapore, Denmark, Iceland and Norway, the mortality rate is below 4 per 1000 live births, in Sierra Leone, Niger or Liberia its exceeds 235.

We must guarantee greater equity in health expenses throughout the world, in order to overcome the huge difference between the few dollars per capita invested in poor countries and the thousands of dollars per capita invested in the developed world.

Five years have gone by since the UN issued the Millennium Development Goals and very little has been done to reach them. Limited compliance by more developed countries to contribute 0.7% of their GDP to the advancement of the poorest areas has had an adverse influence on this situation.

Underdevelopment, Madame Chair Person, is a global problem, just like the healthy reproduction of our species, which is threatened by economic, political and military problems.

Laggard countries lack resources to improve education and culture, a requirement to ensure collective health. The growing burden of the foreign debt prevents our peoples from investing on their development.

For underdeveloped countries, foreign debt service continues to be the yoke that absorbs domestic savings and reduces possibilities for social and productive investment.

Far from overcoming the problem, successive debt refinancing creates new links that lengthen the chain that hinders development, economic progress, an ethical sense of life, and the destiny of humanity.

For this reason, Ecuador supports the Initiative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to create a group of highly indebted lower/middle income countries, which together may find creative and long-term solutions.

The neediest countries are marginalized from investment in research, and medical discoveries are wholly subordinated to the profits generated by their exploitation.

The migration phenomenon has taken on unprecedented dimensions. More than 200 million people are refugees living outside their countries of origin. Migration brings on family destruction and cultural deterioration, which prevent the healthy reproduction of new generations and an adequate management of old age.

Countries must assume binding commitments for the defense of the human rights of migrants. Accordingly, we welcome the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, a multidimensional event that commits the political decision of sending and receiving countries.

War affects the whole planet. Mortality rates increase not only as a result of its direct victims, but because of the destruction of infrastructure.

Ethnic and religious problems, or simple economic desires, lead to genocide practices.

World peace, the validity of human rights, respect among States, are the principles that led to the emergence of the United Nations.

The world has watched engrossed the brutal bloodshed of peoples as a consequence of the settlement of conflicts through the use of weapons, and the limited competence of the International Community within the United Nations to find solutions in keeping with the law.

We support the resolution adopted by the Security Council and the efforts of the Secretary General to bind all opposing parties to comply with the cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces to the borders as they were prior to the last confrontation.

The international community and the highest multilateral bodies have not been able to find diplomatic means to solve these conflicts in a swift and effective way. This means, Madame Chair Person, that something in the structure of these bodies needs to be improved, including within the United Nations system itself.

The Security Council is no longer an expression of world equilibrium. Today, it only represents itself. For this reason, it has to be reformed and democratized.

In the beginning of the third millennium, it is inconceivable that the lives of millions of human beings, of entire populations depend on the veto of such or such State and on a unilateral geopolitical vision.

The notions of war and peace have been brought back to the heart of our reflection on planetary security and survival.

The security of the planet, of the peoples, the States and the Nations will only be durable if it is sown on health, on education, on development. If it is sown on peace.

Laying the foundations of true peace is the greatest moral obligation of all of humanity. The alternative is growing insecurity, fed by misery and fear.

The Commission for the Consolidation of Peace; the inception of the Human Rights Council, of which Ecuador is member; and the reforms that are being introduced in the Secretariat and in the administrative bodies of the UN are significant steps, but still insufficient.

My country believes that the reform of the system includes strengthening the World Health Organization, its leadership, its fight against misery and its biological effects.

Fostering local, national and regional initiatives to implement a fully decentralized world health system.

This will allow the development of health systems and models capable of ensuring explicit benefits to each and every one of the inhabitants of the planet.

Universal Health Insurance is a valid strategy to guarantee access to a comprehensive health system in developing nations, at the same level reached by developed countries. This will eliminate the shameful asymmetry that translates into unbalanced health statistics that differentiate the various segments of our species.

In order to implement these and other important health programs, huge financial resources must be mobilized; and they must come from international cooperation, but also from developing countries, as well as from the so-called donor countries.

Compliance with the Millennium Goals is -in this century- a State policy for the Government of Ecuador.

Ensuring the validity of Human rights. Fighting crimes of renewed gravity, like trafficking in persons and the sexual exploitation of boys and girls.

In the domestic arena, this year we have strengthened legislation to punish these crimes, and especially, economic policy measures have been implemented to recover funds from oil exploitation that will give sustainability to social and productive investment, improving the living conditions of the underprivileged Ecuadorian populations.

For the first time in Ecuador, funds are now available for scientific and technological research aimed at the generation of knowledge.

Ecuador is committed to strengthening South-South relations and it accords high relevance to regional integration, especially the Andean Community of Nations and MERCOSUR, key players in the construction of the South American Community of Nations.

Ecuador promotes all necessary conditions to sign commercial agreements with countries all around the Earth, based on principles that respect the preservation of sensitive areas of national production, ensure food security, and protect biological diversity and genetic data.

Ecuador has maintained a consistent fight against drug trafficking and related crimes. For this reason, we believe that we are entitled to ask the US Senate to renew the Andean Tariff Preference System as an encouragement for licit crops and exports.

Ecuador upholds the principles that guided the founding of the World Trade Organization, and it expects that the obstacles faced by the Doha Round will be successfully overcome, in order to ensure its full validity, particularly with regard to the elimination of subsidies on exports of agricultural produce.

Our relations with Mexico, Central America and The Caribbean are particularly significant. We are simultaneously fostering a dynamic relation with countries in the Pacific Basin.

With Arab and African countries, in the framework of the South American Community of Nations, we have begun regional meetings with the goal of strengthening political dialogue, cooperation and reciprocal trade. Ecuador was honored to welcome the Ministers of Economy and Related Areas of Arab and South American Countries, and we took advantage of this occasion to outline a strategy to strengthen our relations in economic, commercial and investment issues.

With regard to African countries, my country will participate –at the highest level- in the Summit that will take place in Nigeria next November.

Ecuador also accords great importance to political concertation mechanisms like the G-77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, which just wound up its 14th Summit in Havana.

To conclude, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mister Kofi Annan, for the outstanding work carried out at the head of the organization, in spite of all the difficulties faced, including in the financial area.

The world is confident that the new Secretary General will continue his work and that the reform of the United Nations will become a reality, with the commitment of all its members, especially the more developed countries.

Thank you very much, Madame Chair Person.