



# MISSIÓ PERMANENT DEL PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA A LES NACIONS UNIDES

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62<sup>EME</sup> SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES  
62<sup>A</sup> SESIÓN DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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DISCURSO DEL EXCMO. SR. DON ALBERT PINTAT  
JEFE DE GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ANDORRA

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ALBERT PINTAT  
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Mr. Secretary General,  
Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Delegates,

People and planet. These are our alpha and omega. They are the foundation and objective of actions by bodies such as the United Nations.

The earth is blue like an orange, said the poet Paul Eluard. A logical statement since our planet takes its blue colour from the sky and the oceans which protect us, and the orange from the fruit which feeds us. The earth is a sphere which moves and turns with infinite interdependence. The human attitude, nature and the peoples are bound together to form a single scheme of debate, impossible to resolve separately.

In every General Assembly we are pleased to feel that our works are centred in the ideals of a better world in the environment of a democratic structure, dialogue, the brotherhood of cultures and financial and social interchange, supportive and prosperous between the peoples.

And the latest data which have come to us on the Millennium Development Objectives do show a positive trend. We have taken great steps in the reduction of child mortality and we have applied various measures of truly surprising simplicity which have shown their effectiveness in the eradication of many illnesses.

And in spite of all that, the inhabitants of the world – people, flora and fauna of the planet – direct at our organisations and all of us a look of little trust. There is much concern; there is a great uncertainty.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With your permission, my words today will not be of self-complacency, not for the results which have been obtained, nor for the undeniable improvements in some of the ailments which stain our dignity as people. Congratulations can give way to relaxation and could come to have a perversely soothing effect on our consciences.

The development of global societies has become essential in view of the positions affecting financial, social, cultural, military and political systems on a worldwide scale. There is an urgent need for conceptualisation in the face of the evident poverty resulting from the sudden and profound transformations suffered by peoples, regions and countries.

Successive waves of contributions of capital or human resources combine with the pre-existing human substrata, creating superposed strata which accentuate the differences. When these investments cease to be profitable, the resources are redirected, and this results in situations of change or crisis.

The realities on which we have to concentrate are those of a world which, according to the latest data published by UNICEF, 9.7 million children's lives were lost in one year; a world in which live people with a life expectancy difference of more than 30 years; a world in which more than 39 million people are infected with the AIDS virus, a world in which too many people still do not have access to safe drinking water.

This is not alarmism: it is recognition that the advances made cannot hide the profound shortcomings which still exist, nor hold back the achievement of results.

Indignation and rejection in the face of any unacceptable reality have made possible the finest achievements for the progress of humanity, remarkably from the United Nations, and now we have to provide the power to obtain more resources, to go faster, to have more ideas and be even more effective.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For more than 6 decades the United Nations has sought to be a moral and legal force in ensuring that dialogue, cooperation and solidarity take the place of oppression, arms, famine, ignorance, misery and injustice.

However, during these years of the existence of the United Nations organisation, wars, poverty and intolerance have not stopped. On the contrary. We have had to add new ills, such as the radicalisation of fundamentalism and the degradation of the environment, plus more and more frequent natural disasters. Earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones, tornados and floods, the thawing of a high percentage of the glaciers at the two Poles, are vivid examples of a climatic disorder which we have to combat.

To tell the truth, the planet is menaced, but I do not think that this is a wise assertion. Those who are really threatened are individuals and countries from the weakest parts of the world. They are the ones who suffer war, illness and underdevelopment. The climate change will affect all of us, but no all of us equally.

In parallel, the traffic in and abuse of children and women continues in spite of the legal instruments with which we have equipped those countries, such as Andorra, where the defence of human rights and liberties are considered as fundamental inspiring principles.

The world of the 21st century views the armed conflicts, terrorism, violations of human rights and situations of extreme precariousness in many areas with something between resignation and impotence. I quote, merely as an example, the extreme situation which has affected the population of Darfur for many years.

We should not be surprised that, faced with all these hard realities, international institutions are suffering serious crises of discredit and significant erosion.

Nevertheless, if we are here today it is because we believe that we can improve the world – people and planet – because we are convinced that together we are able to react. Hope remains intact.

Every country, whatever its size, every director, every organisation with the capacity for action has to fight to make law into the essence of vitality and to achieve open and sincere dialogue in the international ambit. As Charles de Gaulle said, *“Délibérer est le fait de plusieurs. Agir est le fait d'un seul”*.

And as Al Gore told us on Monday, the world requires a global Marshall Plan, because our planet is in an emergency situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted with the thrust and dynamic displayed by our new Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, since he took office. We praise the efforts of the general assembly in setting up a working group for a reform of the council and the proposals which are being studied. We fully support the model of society proposed by the UN, rooted in the principles of peace, solidarity, liberty, cooperation, social development and economic growth.

And with regard to the objectives, I applaud the initiative of the Millennium Objectives. At the time of their introduction the previous Secretary General warned us that we needed to break

with routine. He told us that we could not get results in a day because success would require sustained action over the envisaged 10 years.

Today, before all of you, I add my full support to these words, and I call on everyone not to lose speed. Press the foot down a little harder on the accelerator.

We all benefit from the progress that we have made. We know the persistent relationship that there is between poverty and nearly all the challenges which we are facing: mortality, differences in life expectancy, health, injustice, intolerance, marginalisation and armed conflicts.

Let us refute before the world – before all people – some pernicious prejudices which prevent us from advancing.

Permit me to recall three truths, which have been defined more than once by Jeffrey Sachs, the eminent director of the Institute of the Earth at Columbia University:

The first is that the illnesses of poor countries are perfectly avoidable and can be prevented.

The second is that to avoid all these so unnecessary deaths will not affect the demographic explosion.

And the third is that poor countries, as has already been shown and in refutation of some voices deliberately ignorant from partiality, are capable of installing efficient public health programmes when they receive adequate aid.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a result of the terror and the material and moral misery suffered during the Second World War, the countries, the peoples and their representatives came to an agreement to say enough and to create organisations such as the United Nations to regulate and mediate in conflicts.

They did this with a driving force of generosity, a breadth of purpose and a boldness which today must inspire our action even more.

The ideals of the fathers of the United Nations Charter were founded on a respect for individuals, on liberty and on access to knowledge and education to achieve welfare and peace around the world.

Only through these ideals, energetically renewed, we can ensure that the balance of planet Earth situation improves perceptibly and continues to do so year by year. And only with the union, understanding and cooperation of all nations can we obtain results.

The small size of Andorra has not prevented us from maintaining good neighbourly relationships with France and Spain for more than seven centuries. We are fully concerned and involved with the objectives of the United Nations. With our long and at the same time humble experience we could even become a neutral area, impartial and isolated from partisan interests, in the case of any resolution of conflicts.

We must be realistic but this must not stop us. We have to advance with modest but continuous reforms, tangible and firm, which lead us to the way to a better future.

Thank you.