



MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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***Statement
by the Vice Minister Secretary-General
of Foreign Affairs of Peru
Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinel***

***General Debate
62nd Session of the General Assembly
of the United Nations***

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Mr. President,

For Peru, your election as President of the Sixtieth Second Period of Sessions of this General Assembly, is a guarantee of leadership, experience and notable capacity of work that will fortify the dialogue principles and coordination that orient the efforts of the United Nations to attain realistic commitments that contribute to the well-being in the daily life of the humanity.

Mr. President,

On August 15, an earthquake occurred in the city of Pisco and seriously affected the Southern populations of Peru, causing the loss of priceless human lives and numerous damages. The Peruvian people deeply appreciates the immediate and generous response of the international community, as well as the fast action of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its support showed that we are not alone and contributed to the action of the Government for the urgent attention of the victims. Our sincere recognition goes for the supportive cooperation received, the one that now is channeled by the Fund of Southern Reconstruction (FORSUR).

Mr. President,

The stabilization and growth of the Peruvian economy during the last 76 months, generate national and international confidence and expectation. We are convinced that the investment and the participation of the productive forces will allow maintaining this continuous growth, and becoming into reality the opportunity to consolidate a model and a national project of social tranquility and development.

In this first year of Government, the President of the Republic Alan García has laid the foundations to offer a greater dynamic to the growth of the country. Now, it is imperative to consolidate and to give practical and positive content to the democracy, the governability and the economic stabilization of the country, in order to allow the growing figures to generate national confidence and participation which could be converted into transparency, equity, justice and social peace

The struggle against poverty and inequity is the most formidable current challenge and the conductive thread of national and foreign policies of Peru. In the conviction that the dignity of human beings and their welfare are the center of their management and that the economic indicators should be based on the well-being of our population without distinctions, the Government has redefined its social policy under a conception of productive inclusion, access to education and to technological innovations, as well as of territorial institutional development and support of the population: for these effects we started from the implementation of the National Strategy of Rural Development and the National Strategy of Food Security to tackle the chronic child malnutrition. Important road infrastructure works will complement the incorporation of the Peruvian Andes and Amazonia to the development of the country.

For the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals, Peru has planned itself as a concrete goal to reduce the present level of poverty from 50% to 30% for the year 2011; the chronic malnutrition will be reduced from 25% to 16%, and the service of potable water and electricity will be extended to 90% of the citizens. Likewise, it has been planned to eradicate illiteracy, to reduce the informal employment from 53% to 35%, to create a million and a half jobs and to reduce the external debt from 24% to 13% of the G.D.P.

The change given by the Government to the State action has as an axis the decentralization. The strategic plan of decentralization goes beyond the simple transfer of resources or the execution of public works in the interior of the country. The regions, now, can coordinate their own development plan, distributing efficiently more than 80% of the national budget, interrelating and gradually integrating Peru as a whole, promoting a better distribution of the population and of the income through a process of national institutionalization that promotes the best care of the environment.

Mr. President,

Peru appears as one of the emerging countries of the region thanks to the continuous growth of its economy in the last 8 years; to its strategic location in the South American Pacific; to the full force of a modern legal framework that encourages the investment and the exports; to the diversity of our natural resources; the growing diversification of Peru in the global markets; and to the political and macroeconomic stability.

It remains a lot to do. In front of the uncertainty of the Doha Round negotiations and a prudent evaluation of the effective possibilities of integration in the Andean sub-region and in Latin America, Peru is arranging Free Trade Treaties with its big commercial partners to complement the schemes of regional and sub-regional integration and the multilateral negotiations.

Peru has in the Andean Community (AC), comprised by Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia, a perfected Free-Trade Zone. Likewise, Peru has subscribed a Treaty of Free Trade with Chile and with the United States and also it is negotiating similar instruments with Canada and Mexico, being predicted also negotiations in a short time with the Central American countries. We have finished negotiating a Free Trade Agreements with Singapore, the negotiations with Thailand have reached an agreement of "early crop" and we have begun to negotiate with China. Likewise, the negotiation of an agreement of association between the AC and the EU has initiated. The priorities are now the negotiations with Korea, Japan, India, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

The objectives are clear: to assure the access to the markets of our main commercial partners; to establish rules and just and predictable commercial disciplines that complement the WTO; to diversify the markets for our exports of goods and services; and, to attract investments and technologies to modernize our productive structure, to reduce the technological gap and to modernize the physical infrastructure to increase the competitiveness of Peru.

After a regressive utopian experience, this model of insertion in the global economy, besides consolidating the regional economic expansion, will allow to assure the participation of the large majorities in the system benefits, with concrete improvements in the conditions of their daily life, contributing thus to its sense of belonging to the social institutions with a view to a full citizenship and to its perception as the agent of the social-economic transformations and to the consolidation of the democratic system.

Mr. President,

My country also assumes growing international responsibilities. In this effort of coordination and dialogue, it is organizing the Summit of Heads of State and of Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, and the Summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) that will take place in Peru in the year 2008.

Mr. President,

Formidable technological advances, especially in the informatic discipline, the emergency of new powers, energy insecurity, climatic changes, growing inequity and poverty and new challenges to the international security configure a changing and every time more complex international setting, which the States and the international institutions should adapt to.

The global society is integrated with productive processes, commerce, financial flows, digital revolution of telecommunications, as well as with diffusion of values as democracy and human rights; but, at the same time, this global society suffers a fragmentation due to a growing and alarming poverty and social inequity, proliferation of civil wars, overflow and collapse of States, genocide, terrorism, transnational crime, degradation of the environment, that put in risk the stability within the States, as well as the governing and the international security.

In this complicated scenario, Peru is participating in the Security Council and in the Peacekeeping Operations. Nowadays, the Peruvian Armed Forces are present in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti.

Peru has given special importance to the cooperation with Haiti, assuming in last January the coordination of the Group of Friends of Haiti in the Security Council. We support the renewal of the mandate of the MINUSTAH for a year, as well as the gradual reorientation of its works to promote the development, supporting its tasks of multidisciplinary and multidimensional character. At present, we are contributing with a contingent of 205 Peruvian military officers, that we expect to be able to complement shortly with an engineering corps.

The Latin American Countries Members of the MINUSTAH (Mechanism 2x9) met in August in Guatemala. Peru co-chaired this meeting along with the host country, and in that opportunity it was agreed to promote the renewal of the mandate of the Mission for a year. Our Permanent Representation has presented a draft resolution that, among others, reaffirms the urgent call to fulfill the pledges of contribution, according to the priorities presented by the Haitian Government, especially for projects of cooperation to eradicate poverty, to improve the basic services of health and to strengthen national institutions. We expect that this draft resolution deserves the consensus in the Security Council in order to allow the continuous international contribution to Haiti.

Mr. President,

Peru organized, last May, with the collaboration of Norway and the UNDP, the Conference of Lima on Cluster Munitions, assuming a promoting role in the region for the endorsement of the "Oslo Process". In the conference, Peru presented to the 69 delegations of the attendant countries the proposal to get a declaration of the Latin-American region as a free zone of cluster munitions that cause indiscriminate effects in the civil population, initiative that already counts on the adhesion of many countries of our region.

Likewise, Peru has ratified diverse international instruments related to small and light weapons and conventional weapons. Also, the Government has recently established the National Commission against the Production and the Illicit Traffic of Firearms, Munitions, Explosives and Other Related Materials and supports the efforts of the international community to develop a system that permit an effective control of the commerce of weapons.

It is imperative the compliance and the effective implementation of the Convention of Ottawa on Antipersonnel Mines. Peru is culminating the preparation of the National Plan of Action against Antipersonnel Mines, with a view to completing the demining in our Northern frontier, in collaboration with Ecuador. It is exemplary how the Armies of our two countries concentrate on the completion of the demining to impulse the economic and helpful development of the boundary zone.

Peru is firmly committed with the efforts to reach the complete disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as its vector systems, that constitute a threat for the international peace and security, supporting the strengthening and universalization of the binding multilateral agreements in the matter. In this context, Peru organized the Regional Seminar on the Implementation of Resolution 1540 of the Security Council, in November 2006, that included the participation of most of the countries of the region.

Peru reiterates its firm condemn to all acts of terrorism, as well as its commitment, through the mutual cooperation, to prevent, to fight, to sanction and to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly is the forum where the medium income countries can efficiently contribute to identify imaginative responses to the conflicts and new current threats. That is why we tenaciously support a reform that guarantee its strengthening and adaptation to the change and to the most urgent needs of the international agenda.

To reinforce its legitimacy, it is necessary to expedite the procedures and to reduce the agenda of the General Assembly, to materialize a more effective action against the violations of human rights. Likewise, it is the time to reform the Security Council in a more efficient, transparent, legitimate, representative forum and with better methods of work. On the other hand, we wish to highlight the relevance of the ECOSOC for the promotion of greater efficacy in the coordination of cooperation strategies for the development and assistance in emergencies.

Mr. President,

For Peru and for the Andean sub-region, the struggle against drug trafficking continues being an undelaying issue of the International Agenda that we must undertake with firmness from the revitalized principles of multilaterality and integrity and from the renewed concept of shared responsibility. Drug trafficking does not offer breaks and works incessantly, sinking our peoples in poverty and corruption.

Peru fights drug trafficking daily and heroic citizens lose their lives for freeing our society and the world of that harmful curse. We denounce the irreparable loss of the eradicators fallen carrying out their duty, product of the insanity of the drug trafficking and of the drug-related terrorism, that use the most criminal methods to impede the action of the State.

We reiterate our conviction in the urgent need to prevent the crime of drug trafficking in all its manifestations and, particularly, from the production of the drug. Our judicial framework, strengthened with the Law of Chemical Supplies and its Regulation, is one of the most efficient instruments to stop the criminal chain of the drug since its beginnings.

Peru proposes that we offer a renewed impulse to our fora and specialized mechanisms to unfaltering continue strengthening our joint action. The new dimension of shared responsibility, in front to the transnationality of drug trafficking, requires a determined action and strategic alliances based on a stable political dialogue, confiding that the joint action and the terms of the supportive international cooperation will correspond to the urgency and magnitude of the problem.

Mr. President,

The international reality raise multiple challenges to the universal system of promotion and protection of human rights. It subsists the dichotomy between security and

individual liberties and, on the other hand, the poverty and inequity in which the large majorities of the planet live affect the human dignity.

The new Council of Human Rights and the system integrated in it, must help to respond to these challenges. The creation of the Council as a main organ of the United Nations, looks forward to improve the task of protection to the victims of violations of human rights.

One of the great achievements in recent years is the entrance in force of the Statute of Rome, and the subsequent implementation of the International Criminal Court. This is a large step against impunity and the promotion of justice and peace. Peru has participated active and constructively since the genesis of this effort and now it is determined to adapt its internal legislation to the stipulated norms by the Statute. It is still pending the definition of some aspects, as the case of the crime of aggression. We expect results in the negotiations before the Review Conference.

Mr. President,

The climate change is a global problem that requires a collective response from international community in the framework of a multilateral and universal commitment.

Peru is a country highly vulnerable to the global warming. We have lost 22% of our glacial surface in the last 30 years and the impact of the Niño Phenomenon is every time more frequent and intense and causes lamentable human losses and enormous material damages that in its last period arose to 4,5% of the G.D.P. of our country. Likewise, part of our Amazon tropical forests and the biodiversity harbored there are in serious risk as result of the change of climate patterns to which is added the growing desertization caused by drug trafficking.

Peru has contributed to the global commitment to reduce our emissions originated by the deforestation through politics of sustainable management of forests. Also, the implementation of our National Strategy on Climatic Change is advancing with the strengthening of national capacities to maximize the available human and financial resources.

The construction of capacities is a process of medium impulse and requires a greater commitment of the industrialized countries in generating greater resources to complement the national efforts. We expect that the future regime on climate change establishes more punctual commitments with specific goals in this aspect.

The magnitude of the problem requires of an agreement with more ambitious goals on emission of greenhouse gases than those agreed in the first period of commitments. Peru has high expectations on the outcomes of the next meeting of Bali and it will work jointly with the purpose of achieving a common platform that permit to promptly initiate the negotiations to define the future international regime that we expect to be concluded in the year 2009.

Mr. President,

By Resolution 60/191, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2008 as the International Year of the Potato with the purpose of concentrating the world attention in the potential of this tuber for food security; the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty; and in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The potato is the fourth basic food of the world, with a production that exceeds the 300 million tons per year.

The official launch of the International Year of the Potato will take place in this headquarters on October 19. This celebration is of singular meaning for my country since the potato is originally from Peru, country with the greater genetic diversity of this product. The cultivation of the potato was developed since immemorial times by the civilizations that gave origin to the current Peru and is one of the major contributions to the food of the world. Peru has proclaimed the year 2008 as the National Year of the Potato and has elaborated a calendar of multisectorial actions for diffusion and investigation as a contribution to the working agenda of the FAO.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude mentioning that Peru participates actively to contribute in reaching and fortifying the principles and objectives of peace, peaceful coexistence and development of the Charter, particularly in the Security Council and the Council of Human Rights. Coherent with that permanent commitment, Peru will continue promoting the dialogue and the coordination among the peoples of the world and it has presented its candidature to the ECOSOC and to the Commission of Peacebuilding, organisms of the United Nations system from where it expects to continue working for a better world.

Thank you