

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Speaking notes for the President, Michelle Bachelet Jeria, on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014

New York, 22 September 2014

Dear friends,

At the outset, I thank you for this invitation. And, first and foremost, I should like to commend the work and the leadership of Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, who achieved global recognition for the discussion of population and development.

Our gathering today has been prompted by the need to review the goals set in Cairo in 1994, with the aim of establishing consistent guidelines reflecting the emergence of new international challenges. After all, to put it in more general terms, we are united here in a common cause: to achieve full development for the people of the world – in other words, to guarantee a development that is egalitarian in nature and that offers opportunities for our population.

We know that there are many unresolved issues. We must not forget that there are still 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty, 842 million suffer from malnutrition and 99 million children below the age of 5 who are undernourished and below the proper weight for their age. It is impossible to advance the development of the population if two and half billion people – more than one third of the inhabitants of the planet – have no access to appropriate health care and 748 million are forced to use water sources which have not been rendered fit for human consumption.

If we want to put these statistics behind us – statistics that bring shame on us as an international community – we need much stronger coordination between our sister nations. The phenomena that we face cannot be tackled from a unilateral standpoint.

In addition, we must overcome certain shortcomings. One lesson that we have learned from the implementation of this Programme of Action since 1994 is that governments cannot implement its objectives on a selective and sectoral basis. It is our duty to take up this challenge and to formulate a new agenda that can be applied in an integrated and comprehensive manner reflecting the individual reality of each of our countries.

In this regard, Chile wholeheartedly endorses and promotes the Secretary-General's report on the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action Beyond 2014. We shall undertake to ensure that our policies emphasize the five thematic pillars of population and development: dignity and human rights; health; sustainability; governance and accountability; and place and mobility.

We espouse the principle that everyone should live in a social environment that provides stability and physical and psychological well-being, in which the rights of the individual are guaranteed by the State. All persons must have opportunities to deploy their capabilities through participation in all spheres of society, without fear or discrimination.

The reality in our continent allows us to be optimistic. Latin America is now beginning to move on from many of its most urgent tasks, such as the attainment of social peace and the reduction of extreme poverty. It now falls upon us to tackle new challenges that are commensurate with the new levels of development that our countries are reaching.

During the 1994 Conference, Chile was recovering from a difficult period in its history. The country was working to build political, economic and social covenants needed to consolidate democracy and freedom while establishing a model of growth with equity. Thanks to the progress that has been made on this front, Chile now enjoys an international reputation as a stable democracy and this allows us to look ahead to the issues that we shall be facing as a society over the next twenty years, such as structural inequality, the distribution of wealth and social inclusion.

The question we now ask is: how are we to address the new challenges put before us by today's agenda?

We believe that the global discussion on these issues should include guidelines enabling States to pursue consistent and feasible public policies commensurate with their capacities.

Where the first pillar is concerned, regarding **dignity and human rights**, a strong culture of respect for human rights at the international level has been achieved with the support and oversight of such international bodies as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Criminal Court.

These are important gains, but armed conflicts, terrorism, authoritarian regimes and, ultimately, discrimination and injustice pose a constant threat that requires us to step up our efforts in prevention, education and control.

With regard to new **health** emergencies, both our health and social protection systems must be equal to the far-reaching changes that the people of the world are experiencing.

Happily, we are living longer today, thanks to the progress and investments that have been made. The World Health Organization estimates that the number of people aged over 60 will have doubled by 2050, compared to the figures for 2000. Of them, 80 per cent will be living in low- and middle-income countries and this will unquestionably put far-reaching challenges before us.

Added to these are the challenges posed by the rise of non-communicable diseases and the need to provide long-term nursing care and to improve primary care systems.

Where **sustainability** is concerned, the tasks before us are not inconsiderable. Economic activity must incorporate a responsible attitude to its impact on climate change; new forms of management and administration must be devised for our energy, water and marine resources; science too will be able to play an important role if we widen our scientific collaboration between communities and encourage partnership-building to foster innovation.

But here, as we shall see in more detail at the Climate Summit tomorrow, it is crucial that each of the international actors make specific and measurable commitments, to ensure that there is also *accountability* in these matters.

And that brings us to the fourth pillar of our post-2014 agenda, **governance and accountability**, which citizens from every corner of the world are demanding with ever growing insistence.

Transparency and strengthening the capacity of citizens to hold their governments to account are prerequisites if we are to increase the possibility of supervising the actions of states and provide a more timely response to the demands of citizens.

The **mobility of populations**, the last pillar of this post-2014 programme, is another example of the necessity for coordination between States. But it also illustrates the interrelationship between all the above issues and confirms the need to ensure an integrated and coordinated implementation of this Programme of Action.

In 2013 there were about 232 million migrants in the world, who often saw their most basic human rights violated, among whom were thousands of victims of human trafficking. This situation demands that we develop new political, legal and institutional instruments to enable us to move towards governance of international migration.

It is our firm conviction that international migration is a positive factor in countries' development, not just economically but also through dialogue between cultures and peoples. It is distressing, however, to see the steady increase in the numbers of people dying in their quest for a better future in other countries.

Bearing in mind the situation in our country and in Latin America as a whole, we propose that these challenges should be tackled in a holistic manner, and that all migrants should be considered as subjects of law. Accordingly, we want to promote the idea of an international convention on migration that would establish minimum standards for the adequate mobility of persons, and enhance the contribution of migrations to development.

There are many actions we can take if we join our efforts around clear objectives. I am convinced that the outcome of this meeting will be very important for the formation of a global system based on principles of tolerance, equality and respect, enabling us to improve our response to the needs of our population.

I thank you again for this opportunity to gather together around an issue of central importance to the people of our countries. Let us not forget that what is at stake is the concept formulated by the Secretary General, that development is "the expansion of human opportunity and freedom".

Thank you.