

# CHILE

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*SIXTIETH SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

*STATEMENT BY  
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE*

New York, 21 September 2005

Mr. President,

I should first like to convey to the American people and Government my sincere condolences on the tragic loss of lives resulting from the recent hurricane Katrina.

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We are entirely at your disposal to cooperate in the tasks facing us.

We are attending this session with the same conviction and determination as 60 years ago. We still believe that this is the place where we can collectively promote human rights, development, solidarity and peace.

While the political agreement reached last week did not meet all our expectations, it enables us to embark on the road to comprehensive and balanced renewal of the United Nations. We have the necessary mandates to initiate the renewal in the course of this session. This must be possible because our interest is the interest of humankind.

Mr. President,

We have here an exceptional opportunity to strengthen multilateralism and build it within the genuine framework of international coexistence.

In the multilateral system, negotiation and consensus are the means of creating international regimes promoting globalization in a legitimate and effective manner. The United Nations is a special forum that we must strengthen in order to do so. Hence the urgent need to implement reform.

We have a special interest in multilateralism providing us with more and better instruments that will enable each country, large or small, to participate in the formulation of rules and in the allocation of the benefits of globalization.

It is our belief that globalization presents us with more opportunities than threats. This is why we must ensure the governance of globalization; and this will be achieved with clear, stable and equitable rules of the game — in other words, institutions.

It is in this spirit that Chile has participated actively in various gatherings concerned with the process of renewal of the United Nations, promoting comprehensive reform encompassing the main topics: Development, Security, Democracy and Human Rights.

Mr. President,

The protection of human rights is the central aspect of globalization and an ongoing concern in the recent history of Chile and of Latin America, which has been written by the citizens and their struggles to restore the value of the dignity and rights of the individual. President Ricardo

Lagos has said that there is no tomorrow without yesterday, meaning that for us pain and also hope are the scaffolding on which we aspire to build a fairer and more cohesive society.

Human rights are a legitimate concern of the international community. Their consideration in the United Nations is not interference, but exercise of a shared responsibility, from a standpoint of cooperation and not of confrontation.

When States are unable or unwilling to act, this Organization cannot remain indifferent in the face of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We have an international responsibility to protect that we cannot ethically shirk.

For Chile, the decision to establish the Human Rights Council is a significant step towards universal protection of human rights. We hope that, before the end of this session, its characteristics, including its status as a permanent organ, will be defined. The election of its members by a two-thirds majority of the Assembly will strengthen its legitimacy.

Comprehensive reporting by the Office of the High Commissioner will help to enhance the credibility of the multilateral human rights system.

In order to avoid the politicization and selectivity that are harming United Nations human rights work, the creation of a peer review system will help to promote an approach of greater cooperation, in which all countries will be subject to an objective evaluation, including primarily those which aspire to become Council members.

Mr. President,

Democratic values are cross-cutting values: they are in the citizens who participate in the life of a community, they underlie the organization of government and public institutions, and they are also the linchpin of international coexistence. This is a priority item on the multilateral agenda, which should be reflected in an active commitment of Member States to promote and defend democracy. It is this interest that motivated Chile's action in the Community of Democracies.

Democracy is always an expression of the diversity of society, of its interests, demands and projects, as well as of its problems. For this reason, democracy is always facing new challenges. Perhaps the greatest of these challenges is inequality.

Some people and regions are part of global society and participate in decision-making and in the distribution of global output, while others are marginalized from access to these benefits. This situation raises an important issue for democratic participation. It is therefore essential, if we wish to consolidate democracy in the world, to move decisively towards the elimination of inequality and to abolish exclusion. A better quality democracy is linked to social integration and poverty relief.

In this connection, the Millennium Development Goals represent a global commitment with regard to fundamental rights, with social underpinnings, that must be achieved in order

effectively to consolidate democracy and to uproot moral indifference towards the unprotected of this world.

Mr. President,

The deepening of democracy must aim at institutional capacity-building in order to meet the demands of society in an effective and transparent manner. We have been working along these lines in the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, seeking formulas and instruments to improve governance. Chile believes that this is an area in which there should be close cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations.

The reaffirmation of democracy as a universal value in the Political Declaration of Heads of State and Government represents concrete progress in the consolidation of a new international regime of promotion and protection of democracy and of the rule of law.

The creation of a Democracy Fund opens up a new forum for cooperation to help countries to strengthen and consolidate democracies in the world. Last April, 108 countries from all continents agreed on the "Santiago Commitment: Cooperating for Democracy", containing guidelines for action.

Mr. President,

We have fully endorsed the concept of multidimensional security in order to meet old and new threats.

The incorporation of the concept of human security in the United Nations is an important contribution to this process of renewal. The definition to be formulated by this General Assembly should incorporate the progress achieved by the Human Security Network, in which Chile has actively participated from the outset.

We were greatly discouraged that no agreement was reached to include the topic of disarmament and non-proliferation in the reform process. This is a subject that must not be dropped from the United Nations agenda. We therefore supported the Norwegian initiative, which succeeded in bridging the gap between opposing positions but which, although supported by almost 80 countries, did not find a place in the Outcome Document.

In addition, we are convinced that terrorism must be tackled through a global and sustained strategy, with the cooperation of all States and international and regional organizations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and with full respect for human rights.

We must translate our strong condemnation of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, into decisive political impetus to conclude the International Convention against Terrorism before the end of this session.

The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission is one of the main successes of this reform, since it will enable the Organization to provide an institutional and integrated response in post-conflict situations. The participation of the World Bank and of the International Monetary Fund can contribute to the effectiveness of the Commission's work. United Nations action should not cease as soon as crises are over but, if the peace is to be stable, should continue until institutions are rebuilt and peaceful coexistence is restored. This was the view put forward by Chile, during its presidency of the Security Council, when it proposed in January 2004 an open-ended debate on post-conflict reconciliation.

In a reflection of our Latin American identity and an awareness of the responsibilities imposed by the global society, we are participating in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We are convinced that this joint commitment, strongly regional in nature, has been helpful in enabling this country to recover the ability to control its own destiny. This will undoubtedly require the continuing presence of the international community. The elections are an important step, which Haiti should take on schedule. However, voting is only the basis for self-determination. We must continue helping to create the prerequisites for a more dignified future for the Haitian people.

Haiti can be the first trial run for the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. President,

Poverty, hunger and social inequality are the great challenges facing our peoples today. Economic development with equity is essential in order to achieve a world truly at peace, and to guarantee the rights of individuals and stable democracies.

A few days ago, the Heads of State and Government reviewed the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000. Our country has taken up these challenges, by adopting appropriate macroeconomic measures and implementing official policies focusing on social aspects. We have met over one third of the Goals and hope to achieve them all by 2015. We have also set ourselves some additional goals.

In order to achieve economic development with equity, each country has a responsibility to be assumed domestically and tasks to be performed internationally. In this connection, it is essential to work on implementing the "Monterrey Consensus" on financing for development, so that the domestic efforts of each country can enjoy an international economic environment facilitating poverty relief and permitting sustained development.

As a country at an intermediate stage of development, we acknowledge that the bulk of official development assistance should be channeled to the least developed countries, giving special attention to the situation of Africa. However, we believe that international cooperation should also help middle-income countries, particularly for the formulation of official policies designed to overcome poverty and close the inequality gap.

We co-sponsored the Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty, which seeks to devise innovative financing arrangements to combat this problem within the framework of the action of the

international community to attain the Millennium Development Goals. We need responses now, and this is a definite option recognized in the Political Agreement on reform. Accordingly, the Government of Chile has approved an international airline levy of \$2, to be introduced on 1 January 2006, which we shall contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS.

Chile considers it essential to bolster the general efforts to liberalize international trade for developing countries' exports and to achieve stable financial flows to their economies.

We urge speedy conclusion of the Doha Round and remodeling of the international financial architecture to promote international conditions favorable to the sustained growth of the developing countries and the elimination of poverty.

Mr. President,

Development, Security and Human Rights for all are three interdependent concepts that dominate our life in society and must be adequately reflected in a comprehensive reform process.

We must be able to make the United Nations an organization that helps each person to choose the life that he wishes to live and have access to the basic resources needed to make his options meaningful.

We have embarked on the decisive stage of the road to renewal. We are all responsible for getting to the end. We must make progress towards consensus on Security Council reform so that this organ can more democratically represent the new realities of the twenty-first century.

It is also essential to renew the Secretariat's managerial capacity to administer efficiently and responsibly the resources that we all contribute for the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

Over and above the legitimate differences that are part of the richness of our diversity, we must build universal agreements reflecting common concerns to ensure the dignity of peoples and the right to live in a more secure world.

This session of the General Assembly is a historic opportunity to promote change. If we do not implement the agreements achieved, hiding behind national interests or narrow cultural visions, we shall be failing to respond to the feeling of millions of human beings who aspire to understanding among civilizations, a global alliance for development and reaffirmation of the underlying values of the United Nations. Let us not miss this opportunity. If we do not act collectively today, tomorrow may be too late.

Thank you.