



# MÉXICO

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO,  
VICENTE FOX QUESADA  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE  
61ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

New York, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, VICENTE FOX QUESADA  
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**Madam President,**

On Mexico's behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your election to conduct this 61<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. Please allow me to wish you the utmost success throughout your endeavors.

The Mexican people are grateful to Mr. Jan Eliasson's leadership which guided the outcomes of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, as well as for his contribution to the United Nations reform process.

Mexico warmly welcomes the people of Montenegro to this Organization of free, sovereign and equal nations.

**Madam President,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We recently honored the fifth anniversary of terrorist acts that put a lot of families of this country and others, into mourning and grief.

Those who have suffered the violence and cruelty caused by terrorism, please accept our respect and expression of solidarity.

Mexico firmly condemns this most terrible threat as well as any act of aggression or violence.

We repudiate any act against peace and any action that does not conform with the principles and purposes of our Organization.

Throughout six decades, the peoples of the United Nations have expressed their belief that the use of force is not a solution; on the contrary, it usually aggravates conflicts.

Together, we have learned that peace and development arise from mutual respect and from the cooperation that emerges and grows from such respect.

The peoples of the United Nations are well aware of the fact that the breaches of peace and security and our setbacks in our search for greater development are a consequence of an insufficient international dialogue and cooperation.

We are also aware that the root-cause of much of the setbacks --such as those record in the field of disarmament as well as those that take the form of aggression against other people or against the environment— is the lack of, or the lost of respect among nations.

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These are times of great challenges.

Our peoples today face challenges such as those posed by longstanding international conflicts that persist *in tandem* with the emergence of new threats to international peace and security.

They also face the need to tackle problems that range from poverty, diseases, illiteracy, inequality of opportunity and the lack of an open and inclusive dialogue aimed at fostering a better mutual understanding.

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Humanity is desperately seeking respect, understanding, and cooperation among nations. There will be no peace without forging respect among nations. Development will not emerge in the absence of cooperation.

Definitely: these are times of challenges, but also times of hope.

I believe that hope brings about strength and the necessary willpower to achieve our goals; to attain our dreams.

This house, the maximum international forum created by mankind, is built upon the principles and values shared by all peoples.

It is here, where the best of ourselves gathers. It is in this house where we realize that what truly binds us is not violence and hatred, but hope.

Our ideals to preserve future generations from the scourge of war are bound here. It is in this house, where we fight together to honor dignity and the value of human life. It is from here that we foster the economic and social progress of all our peoples.

This is no minor task. The challenges we face are multiple because our aims are high and ambitious.

The dimension of the challenges cannot and should not overshadow the scope of our common will.

This is Mexico's message: a message of hope, of faith in what we are able of achieving together; a message of confidence in the work done by our United Nations.

This is the message of Mexico, a country that in 2000 conquered democracy and with it, the hope for a new future of prosperity and justice.

Mexico is currently experiencing unprecedented freedoms. My country is growing and developing in peace, with freedom, stability and with its eyes set on new and better horizons for the well-being and justice for all Mexicans.

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The new democratic Mexico is firmly committed with the promotion and defense of human rights as it has rightly been acknowledged inside as well outside my country.

We take pride in having enacted laws and instituted practices against discrimination and in the fact that today, children, women, indigenous peoples, the

sick and the people with disabilities have better conditions for their development in our country.

Mexico is also very proud in being a founding member of the Human Rights Council and in being the country to preside the Council's first year of work.

We will continue working with enthusiasm and determination in order to make the Council, an organ that effectively addresses the needs and aspirations regarding human rights.

Mexico is a country that cherishes its roots and traditions. Mexico treasures its wealth acquired by being a land of encounters among diverse civilizations and cultures.

We cherish the legacy of our indigenous peoples and we are proud of our indigenous present.

Due to this, we are actively engaged in the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples at the international level.

Last May, Isabel, an indigenous Mexican Raramuri told me and I quote: *"It is true that all human beings are different and that we see the world through diverse lenses and therefore, we do not share the same beliefs. Despite this,--she reminded me-- all human beings are equal in dignity and stature" –*

She reached out to me to convey this message. I promised her to pass it on and today, I am keeping my word by bringing young Isabel's voice and that of our indigenous brothers to the highest global forum. Isabel's voice is the voice of all Mexican women and men fighting discrimination.

Thanks to the commitment of the members of the Human Rights Council, this General Assembly will have before it for its consideration, the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On behalf of indigenous peoples of Mexico, I call upon each and every one Member State of this Organization to adopt this Declaration; to grant it the necessary status to promote the respect to the rights of the indigenous peoples.

As part of our efforts to create a more just world for the millions of people with disabilities, in 2001, Mexico submitted to this General Assembly a proposal to negotiate a United Nations Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of the People with Disabilities.

Today, we have an agreed text that not only reflects the value and dignity of the persons with disabilities, but also one that will allow governments and societies to better their policies on this issue.

I urge all nations to sign and ratify this most important legal instrument. I call upon all Member States to join in this common effort to create a more humane and fairer world.

**Madam President,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mexico believes in the present and the future of the United Nations. In this house, we have always worked in a constructive fashion, building consensus and putting forth initiatives to address the greatest challenges of our times.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Spain and Sweden for the support granted to the Mexican initiative to create the Group of Friends for the United Nations Reform.

Together, we presented an array of proposals that were taken in the Secretary General's Report of March 2005 that served as the basis to the Outcome Document adopted in the 2005 World Summit.

I am certain that the Group's commitment with the reform of the United Nations will result in a stronger Organization that is capable of accomplishing the objectives for which it was created.

Mexico is convinced of the need to promote a reform of the Security Council that can guarantee the Council's representativeness, efficacy and transparency as well as its accountability. Mexico firmly believes that this objective will not be attained with the creation of new permanent seats.

We are an Organization based on the principle of equal sovereignty of States. The reform of the Security Council should guarantee that all Member States participate with greater frequency in this organ. Due to the latter, Mexico proposes an enlargement of the Council in the non-permanent category with the possibility of immediate re-election.

Since this is the last time I will be appearing before this Assembly, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to all Member States for the support given to our work and to all the initiatives put forth by Mexico throughout the last six years.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Secretary General Kofi Annan, a good friend of Mexico. He will be remembered for his untiring efforts to reform and strengthen this Organization.

From this podium, I wish to reiterate Mexico's commitment with the objectives of the San Francisco Charter; with the reform process currently in place and with our common aspiration for a world free of poverty, fear, despair and one based on mutual respect.

From this podium and on Mexico's behalf I appeal for respect and peace among nations. I call on the membership of the United Nations to continue promoting peace in the Middle East.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

There is no greater enemy or greater obstacle than the lack of hope.

Let us build the future based on the strength of our ideals; putting our confidence in the outcomes that our nations can attain by working together.

With the same spirit that made our peoples become free and sovereign nations, I invite you today to set our sights on a future of greater freedoms, guaranteed justice and brotherhood among human beings.

Thank you very much.