



MISION PERMANENTE DEL PERU ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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**Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru,
H.E. José Antonio García Belaúnde, at the General Debate of the
61st. United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 26 September 2006

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Madame President,

In the first place, I wish to express our congratulations for your election as President of this General Assembly. I convey to Your Excellency the best wishes of the people and the Government of Peru for your direction to be successful and I express our better disposition to work together in benefit of the international community.

Madame President,

The Government of President Alan García, that took office on the 28th last July, found a situation of particularly serious social deficit. More than 13 million Peruvians, half our population, live in conditions of poverty. From them, 5 million, that represent the 20 percent of our population, suffer extreme poverty. Peru lives then in a situation of deep inequity for a medium income country.

To face this reality, the Government of President Alan García has given a major emphasis in an action of State with sense of responsibility, designing an agenda of social inclusion based on the promotion of investments for the generation of jobs. That agenda requires, at the same time, that we learn to act in a supportive way, based on civic values and granting due attention to the most vulnerable groups for them to have full participation in public policies.

The initial actions intend to recover the level of confidence in our society as an essential factor for the promotion of a long-term development and for a shared growth. In that sense, my Government is working with the social sectors of the country to develop a **culture of duty**, as one of the main pillars to support the policies of our Government and the relation between society and State.

The Government of Peru has established the fight against poverty as a main priority of its Administration. It also marks the guideline of its external action, in which seeks to join efforts with the nations of the Latin-American region with the purpose of carrying out an agenda of development addressed to achieve the growth with equity and social inclusion.

In this context, we ratify our conviction in the need to promote the **Latin-American integration**. For that, we are working in the consolidation of the Andean Community, as well as in the construction of the South American Nations Community. This is the goal that encourages us, because in order to express the common interests of our continent in a world as the current one, we must act in harmony to face in a better way the challenges of the globalization.

A Latin America with a united voice will be able to confront its afflicting common problems with greater capacity, as the marginalization of extensive sectors of its population, the internal imbalances and the diverse social fractures. A more united Latin America will be able, likewise, to project better the values of the democracy and of the pluralism that characterize it today. In that framework, the tolerance and the respect for the differences will permit to

reinforce projects of common interest that offer real opportunities to all our citizens for their development and well-being.

Madame President,

One of the challenges that our continent and particularly, the Andean region, must confront in a determined manner is **the fight against the drug trafficking**. Peru reaffirms its indeclinable position to fight in a drastic and integral way the illicit trafficking of drugs, emphasizing the principles of multi-laterality and of shared responsibility.

Because of it, we are doing a meticulous evaluation in order to know the current situation of the cooperation in the fight against the illicit traffic of drugs. Following the concept of shared responsibility, Peru has declared its interest in the carrying out of an **Anti-Drugs Summit (San Antonio II)**, to give a new impulse to dialogue and cooperation in the Andean field and that, along with the United States and the European Union, it can be agreed a single strategy of consensus, mutually beneficial for Andean producer countries and the large markets of consumers.

Another scourge of universal extent that the international community should fight without any concession is **the terrorism**. Peru reiterates that terrorism, under any form or modality, whatever its motivation, it is unacceptable and, therefore, should be condemned and fought. The States must show an unmistakable attitude to that respect. Because of it, Peru supports the efforts carried out by the United Nations in matter of fight against terrorism, among which the approval of the Global Strategy of the Fight against Terrorism stands out. Peru reaffirms its conviction that this fight can and must be carried out respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Madame President,

In the Millennium Declaration we proposed ourselves the goal of reaching by the year 2015 diverse **objectives of fight against poverty and an association for development** that synthesize the challenges to be faced and overcome by numerous countries like Peru, and the cooperation that developed countries should offer in aid for development, commerce and financing. Nevertheless, on occasion of the 2005 Summit, we verify that the advances in the fulfillment of the goals of the Millennium are still modest and in some cases, the goals themselves seem to be unattainable.

To fulfill the Millennium objectives, the Government of Peru has undertaken **immediate actions** that include, first, the reform of the State and of the political system, in austerity, through the decentralization, the administrative simplification and the moralization. Second, the creation of employment through the investment and of the opportunities that the State should promote. Third, the rescue of labor and social rights to have a just and modern society. Fourth, the policy in favor of women, youth and children. Fifth, the civic safety to provide tranquility and confidence to its people. Nothing of this will be sufficient if the markets of developed countries maintain their restrictions that do not permit the access to our products. We exhort the prompt resume of the talks of the Round of Doha with a spirit of commitment.

The initiatives of my Government in matter of social policies will permit to assure a more extensive exercise of **human rights**. I refer, particularly, to the economic, social and cultural

rights, where the lacks are more evident, giving special attention to the most vulnerable groups.

In this respect, during the current period of sessions of the General Assembly, three important international instruments linked to the promotion and protection of human rights will be submitted to consideration, and eventual approval. Two of them are the draft Declaration of **"Rights of Indigenous Peoples"** and the draft **"International Convention on the rights of people with disabilities"**. Peru encourages to each one of the member States of the United Nations to consider the adoption of these two instruments that will provide greater protection to millions of people that today are victims of marginalization. To those, it is added the draft **"Convention against Forced Disappearances"**, that will allow to fight with greater efficacy these condemned practices.

Madame President,

We are conscious of the importance of the **multilateralism** as the favorable space for medium and low income countries to participate in the international concert, contributing to seek solutions for the challenges of this global world.

These challenges arise from the current characteristics of the international system, in which two antagonistic processes coexist. Thus, while the world is globally integrated, at the same time it is fragmented by the increase of social inequality, by the proliferation of civil conflicts and the disintegration of States, the so called "ethnic cleansings", the massive violations of human rights, the traffic of people and of weapons, the degradation of the environment, the terrorism and the international organized crime.

These contradictory tendencies between globalization and fragmentation question many times the governability of the States and the international stability. These are the **great challenges** faced by the international community and, particularly, by the Security Council. It is, then, necessary to develop an integral and strategic vision that permit to attend the problems that affect the international peace and security. The military aspects are not the only ones that originate crisis but also the structural factors as poverty, social exclusion and degradation of the environment that are the detonators of the national and international instability.

If the Council does not take into account this reality, it will be very difficult to prevent or to solve conflicts in a sustainable way, because it would be leaving aside the most important variables. We recognize, therefore, the need to become the multilateral system in a more agile, integral and effective one, in order to face the threats and the global challenges. But, at the same time, the action of the Security Council must be founded on the legitimacy that grants **the strictest respect to the values, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the international law**. With this conviction, Peru participates in the Security Council in a coherent way and with a constructive spirit.

Under these premises, it is fundamental to fortify the regimes of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the one of peaceful solution of controversies. We support the interventions authorized by the Security Council through its Peacekeeping Operations and we will continue the effort to achieve a renewed system of collective security, supported and respected by all member States of the Organization to face the threats to international peace and security.

It is in this context, that the participation of Peru is framed in the Peacekeeping Operations in: Haiti, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi and Cyprus. That participation demands delicate and arduous responsibilities. We assume them as a natural corollary of our commitment with the international peace and security. Likewise, we affirm our confidence in the Commission of Consolidation of Peace to comply with the objective to support the reconstruction of the countries that are out of the conflict now.

At the same time, we believe that the efforts in matter of prevention to regional and sub-regional level should be increased; that it is why Peru promotes the development of a **cooperative security**, through mechanisms that permit to reinforce structures of peace and security, and in which development the need to avoid armament races among neighboring countries will be also inscribed.

Peru supports the reform of the Security Council to become more efficient, transparent, democratic and representative organ. In that process, we favor the increment of the number of its members through the dialogue and the consensus as part of an integral process of reform of the United Nations, in which some advances have been obtained. Among these, the creation of the Central Rotary Fund of Emergency, the Council of Human Rights and the Commission of Consolidation of Peace are emphasized, initiatives that offer us a hope in the process of reform in its entirety. We must confront the way ahead with greatest responsibility and with a dialogue and open spirit.

Madame President,

I have wanted to share these ideas to reaffirm before you that Peru, from its own social and economic reality, from its regional projection, as well as from its deep multilateral vocation, it wishes to continue contributing in a constructive way to the security, the development and the respect of human rights in the world. We are convinced that the United Nations system will be able to consolidate, with the participation of all of us, its central role to promote the social progress and to elevate the standard of living in the most extensive concept of liberty, as mentioned in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you, Madame President.