



MÉXICO

Statement by
H. E. Mr. Vicente Fox Quesada,
President of Mexico,
at the separate meeting on
Financing for Development
within the framework of the
High-level Plenary Meeting
of the General Assembly

New York, September 14, 2005

Before beginning my address, I would like to transmit Mexico's sincere condolences to the people and the Government of the United States for the unfortunate loss of life and damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The generosity of the United States, among other countries, in similar situations, shows that solidarity and cooperation are today at the core of international relations.

Accordingly, today Mexico joins other countries in providing all possible assistance to the people of the United States.

Heads of State or Government;

Secretary General of the United Nations;

Distinguished Heads of Delegation;

Distinguished Co-Chairmen;

Ladies and gentlemen:

In 1945, a world that awakened from horror decided to create an organization intended to preserve future generations from the scourge of war.

That was the origin of the United Nations 60 years ago, founded so that States could peacefully work out their differences and agree on joint actions to address mankind's grave problems.

Today, we must lead our Organization to a higher stage, which allows us to face and overcome challenges such as hunger, poverty, the violation of human rights, and terrorism, which threaten our security.

Together, we must reinvigorate economic growth and development; a sustainable and fair development that constitutes the foundation of the well-being of the new generations.

Nearly four years ago in Monterrey, we decided to spur the development of our peoples and we accepted undertakings and concrete goals in the Millennium Development Goals.

Mexico has made significant progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We have reached seven, we are about to attain four of them, and we need to take further steps in order to achieve the last one

In order to keep the original purpose of the Millennium Development Goals, I would like to propose a set of new goals relevant to the reality of countries with similar level of development as Mexico. For instance, it is possible to go further in our poverty reduction objectives, it is possible to be more ambitious regarding gender equality, it is possible to aim at higher goals on health and education.

By reaffirming these goals, we also stress that only within the United Nations framework it is possible to build the consensus and partnerships indispensable for achieving world peace and sustainable development.

Today, here, in the framework of our organization, we must adopt and strengthen the arrangements and tools to ensure fulfillment of the commitments that have been established.

It is essential to go beyond the expression of political will to overcome grave problems such as poverty, and to take concrete actions to achieve it; we must transform rhetoric into clear and quantifiable commitments.

Every contribution is unique and indispensable. No one can be excluded from our common struggle for development.

At the Monterrey Conference we forged an historic partnership between developed and developing countries; between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institution and the World Trade Organization.

This partnership is in the interest of all concerned, because it will narrow the gap that prevent the progress of developing countries, a gap which, if it remains in existence, will inevitably undermine the prosperity of the industrialized countries.

The survival of small islands of prosperity surrounded by seas of destitution is not viable. In an interdependent world, poverty exacerbates other evils, it engenders instability, it provokes conflicts which respect no borders, and it threatens peace and security at a regional and global level.

Hence we must accept the urgency of making sure the cooperative arrangements for development designed at Monterrey bear fruit in the shortest possible time.

It is encouraging that some developed countries are achieving the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to development assistance, and others have adopted precise timetables to do so.

However, we need to be very clear and frank in pointing out that, even if this important goal is reached, it will not guarantee the eradication of poverty from the world.

A core issue is the need to improve the effectiveness of aid. Donors need to harmonize resource allocation procedures, align aid with each receiving country's priorities, and focus it on the reduction of poverty.

I would like to congratulate the Group of Eight (G8) for the commitments adopted at the Scotland Summit, to condone multilateral debt of 18 Heavily Indebted Poor

Countries; this will free up the funds needed to combat poverty in those countries.

We must now accompany that initiative with others which will transform the right to development of billions of people in the world into a reality.

Reducing the debt burden for other developing nations, providing for the development of infrastructure, making new investments that create jobs, and launching programs to protect the environment; these are indispensable actions in today's world.

The opening of the developed countries' markets to the developing countries' agricultural and manufactured products is one of the best ways to fight poverty.

Fair trade is the best engine for the developing countries' sustainable growth, in addition to benefiting the consumers in the industrialized nations.

Let us commit ourselves today, to see that the Doha Development Agenda achieves concrete results in terms of market access, services, facilitation of trade, and definition of rules endowing world trade with certainty and transparency.

Let us also commit ourselves to achieving the developing countries' full participation in the international economic institutions' decision making.

Let us reinforce the United Nations' leadership role in fostering development.

Let us renew the commitments adopted at Monterrey and strengthen the dialogue between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The effective and prompt execution of the agreements, and the fulfillment of the undertakings adopted by consensus, is a necessary condition for achieving the Millennium Declaration's goals.

On the 60th Anniversary of our Organization, we must acknowledge that collective security, economic development, and full respect for human rights are intimately and inseparably related.

We will not succeed in doing away with the different threats to security if we do not achieve true progress in the common agenda for development that we have adopted.

Mexico hereby ratifies its commitment to the global partnership for development that is stated in the Monterrey Consensus.

Mexico hereby confirms that it will continue building bridges between the developed and the developing countries, and encouraging the active participation of the private sector and civil society.

Each of our governments has the enormous responsibility of fostering and unleashing all the potential of those sectors, so as to drive together an authentic human development.

Our commitments must be as strong as our great needs.

I invite all nations to strive even harder to advance together, with effectiveness and certainty, in the construction and achievement of the new world development agenda, as we agreed to do at Monterrey.

On that depends our ability to forge a new future of peace, security, and well-being for all the peoples of the world.

Finally, I would like to express my support to the generous offering of the Government of Qatar to host in 2007 the International Conference to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Thank you very much.