

CHILE

MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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*SIXTIETH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

*ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE*

*H . E . MR . RICARDO LAGOS
HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

New York, 15 September 2005

Mr. President,

It is with a mixture of hope and frustration that Chile is attending this plenary meeting.

Let us be clear on this. We have not achieved as much as we had hoped by the sixtieth anniversary of our Organization.

Of course, the United Nations has played a key role in the history of the last few decades.

Its contribution to the settlement of 170 conflicts and in 60 peacekeeping missions since 1948 bears witness to this fundamental presence.

However, the United Nations and the current international agenda are more than this.

Accordingly, we have stressed the need to promote comprehensive reform, in which the Security, Human Rights and Development triad will form a whole focusing on the human person.

For Chile, Mr. President, multilateralism is not merely a conceptual category or a slogan but a political necessity.

The national interest of a relatively small State such as Chile seems better protected by an effective multilateral system.

A system of rights and duties, in which we advance together, assuming the tasks of a fairer and more balanced international order.

Because we believe in this dimension of rights and duties, we went to Haiti as soon as the Security Council made its first appeal. There was an ethical and political obligation to help to build peace in the poorest country on our continent. Today we hope that elections will be duly held and that international cooperation will be forthcoming in a timely manner.

In the same spirit, we have worked to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We are convinced that the fight against poverty, hunger and under-development begins at home. Nobody is going to do for us what we do not do in our country and through our own people.

Taking 1990 as the base year, by 2003 Chile had achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals.

We have reduced poverty from 40 per cent to 18 per cent, and extreme poverty from 13 per cent to 5 per cent.

This was all a reflection of official policies, because we believe that they are the key to action at the national level to assist the most destitute.

Today, in this Assembly, a question reverberates: When and how are we going to promote a policy of global public goods that endeavours at the global level to narrow the gaps between rich and poor and to move towards greater equity?

In Chile, we believe that globalization is a reality and that it should be expanded for the benefit of the large majorities, in the context of a global civic dimension.

Mr. President,

The Outcome Document of this Summit, painstakingly finalized a few hours before it opened, must be viewed with interest and satisfaction. Although it does not fully meet our expectations, we consider it as the starting point on the road to changes needed by the Organization and not as the goal itself.

Most of the text is devoted to a development agenda whose implementation requires the global alliance that we proclaimed in the Millennium Declaration.

We welcome the idea of a Human' Rights Council and hope that all the details can be worked out before the end of this session of the General Assembly.

The creation of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Democracy Fund will be a signpost showing the way that we should follow in the future. One will contribute to reconstruction and reconciliation in post-conflict countries. The other will enhance national capacities to implement democratic practices and principles. Chile has made an initial contribution and supports the establishment of this Fund.

We must translate our strong condemnation of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, into a decisive political impetus to finalize the comprehensive convention on terrorism before the end of this sixtieth session.

These and other achievements of today and of the future give us hope and point to tasks still remaining.

Mr. President, Chile pledges all its political will to accomplish these tasks, so as to create a world in which multilateralism is the framework for international coexistence.

There is still time for this sixtieth session to become a historic turning point. A moment at which the inevitable reform of our Organization is initiated and forcefully projects it into a future of effectiveness and relevance.

This is what humankind needs and is demanding in the twenty-first century.

Thank you.