

COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT
H.E. Mr. ALVARO URIBE VELEZ
PRESIDENTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 16 SEPTEMBER 2005

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Messrs. Co-Presidents,

Distinguished Colleagues and Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Jan Eliasson, for your election as new President of the General Assembly and thank Mr. Jean Ping for his work during the previous session.

Colombia takes part in this high-level meeting to reaffirm its commitment to the United Nations and to an open and inclusive multilateralism. For my country the ongoing process of reform must have as its main objective the strengthening of States and the creation of national capacities that would allow countries to respond in an effective and efficient manner to the needs of their population.

We believe the Millennium Development Goals are achievable as long as we all make concessions. Developing countries will be able to meet the Goals when they are able to compete and have free market access. This could be possible through the elimination of subsidies, such as those that benefit agriculture in developed countries.

With the achievement of the Goals, more than deepening an assistance and aid approach, countries must consolidate their sustainable development and national capacities for the generation of wealth, progress and prosperity.

Colombia understands we must be diligent in achieving the Millennium Development Goals to guarantee the democratic legitimacy that emerges from security, public freedoms, independence of institutions, transparency and social cohesion.

In my country, we have incorporated the Millennium Development Goals into the National Development Plan and into a project we have named "Vision Colombia Segundo Centenario", which will guarantee the achievement of the Goals by 2015. We have focused on education, expanding health coverage and improving access to drinking water and basic sanitary services.

Together with democratic security to defeat terrorism and guarantee the freedoms of all my compatriots, with transparency and citizen participation to defeat corruption, we have made a commitment to eradicate poverty and improve equity.

In this reform process of UN organs, we believe those entrusted with development should be strengthened and must become true forums to discuss the issues facing developing countries in all their diversity, including middle-income countries.

We believe the proposal to create a Peacebuilding Commission must focus on establishing policies and support strategies to national development programs and initiatives for countries emerging from conflict.

The success of the UN will take a clear form when, once it has completed its mission, it withdraws from those countries that asked for its help. Its failure occurs when it remains in place for decades and creates a dependency of the national structures on the international system. Its failure occurs when it takes over the State's responsibilities rather than creating a national capacity so it governs with autonomy and independence and have the means and mechanisms to overcome challenges and respond efficiently to the needs of its people.

The role of States cannot be replaced by the Organization. This principle must be the starting point in the formation of the Peacebuilding Commission and in this manner become a true catalyst for development to overcome conflict.

Regarding the proposal to create a Human Rights Council, we believe it must be directed with a view to cooperating with States and building national capacity in each country. In this new Council, the punitive approach and finger pointing, that have politicized the matter and weakened the capacity of the United Nations to contribute and support States in the promotion and protection of human rights, must not prevail.

We believe consensus must guide decision-making in this reform process. Only in this way, will it be possible to meet the expectations of introducing true and significant changes. We believe we must all participate in this reform process, respecting the principle of sovereign equality and guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

Thank you.