



ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
FANDER FALCONI BENITES
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND INTEGRATION
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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** Check against delivery*

Ecuador salutes the appointment of Doctor Ali Treki as President of the 64th Session of United Nations General Assembly. His large experience in the international scene is a guarantee for success on the key issues of the agenda for the work of the General Assembly during this year. Ecuador wishes to commend specially, the former President, Padre Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, for his determination on democratizing this Organization and for his unbreakable commitment with the poor and the voiceless of this planet.

The overarching theme of this General Debate on strengthening multilateralism is the "raison d'être" of the United Nations. This organization is meant to be the expression of horizontal, democratic and respectful relations between the countries of the world, under the strongest observance of the principle of equal sovereignty among the States. However, the current structure and functioning of this Organization has not been able to respond to the big challenges of the XXI century.

For that reason, is urgent to continue and to strengthen the process of structural reform. Ecuador believes that the reform must include a re-design of its main bodies. The Security Council must be more representative, democratic and efficient and to achieve that, we want to make a call to all the Member States for a real commitment towards a substantive transformation throughout this year, not only on the integration of those bodies but also on their working methods.

Furthermore, our country considers that the General Assembly, as the most democratic and universally representative body of the United Nations must fully assume the role established in the UN Charter. It is mandatory to move forward on substantial agreements that can lead us to a real revitalization of the General Assembly.

On the same path, Ecuador is also committed with the process of regional integration, as mechanisms of coordination, cooperation and solidarity among the peoples. Therefore we faithfully assume the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Union of South-American Nations (UNASUR), as an opportunity to contribute to the integration as a fortunate mechanism to promote democracy and welfare in a collective and consensual manner.

Latin America and the Caribbean have understood that the best way to face today challenges is through an effective multilateral action. Our region is passing through an intense process of integration based on solidarity and cooperation. This is demonstrated in regional forums so vital such as the Rio Group, the UNASUR, the ALBA and the CARICOM. On each of those groups, different proposals and actions are being developed, aimed at the construction of a common agenda on the social, cultural, political and economic field, in order to build a new model of development, more inclusive and less predator.

Every effort on integration requires the recognition of the principles of equality and sovereignty of the States. Therefore my country congratulates itself for the reversal of the unfair exclusion of the sister Republic of Cuba from the Organization of American States.

We settled part of the debt with Cuba, but there is still pending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against this brother country, in spite of the claims of the General Assembly during the last seventeen years. This blockade is contrary to the principles and rules of International Law and its continuance is still affecting severely the wellbeing and the dignity of the Cuban people.

Latin America and the whole world have also stood up throughout the historic resolution of the General Assembly to condemn the Coup d'Etat perpetrated against the legitimate Government of the Republic of Honduras. The international community has categorically and unanimously rejected this attack against democracy, the right of citizen participation, International Law and against all the practices of pacific coexistence. Therefore we insist on the immediate restitution of President Zelaya, along with the demand of his physical protection and the immediate cease of the repression of the Honduran people. We echo the resolutions of the United Nations, the OAS, the Rio Group, the UNASUR, the European Union and many other international organizations that have been stated on this subject.

Now, I would like to refer to the Declaration of the 61 Heads of State and Government of South America and Africa, adopted yesterday in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, where we condemned the Coup d'Etat in Honduras. In this Document we also support the Declaration of the Security Council adopted on September 25th, in order to ensure the security of the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa where President Jose Manuel Zelaya has taken shelter since September 21st and that has been subject to unjustifiable military and police harassment.

We call the international community to adopt together strong measures that guarantee the restitution the democratic order in Honduras as a condition to promote any election process and to recognize the authorities that become elected as a result of that process.

Today, we face a systemic and multi-dimensional crisis that jeopardizes not only the balance of an economic system but also the very survival of human beings. The food crisis, the energy crisis and the scandalous financial crisis are clear symptoms of a system that does not work and that has to be re-invented.

One of the most evident faces of the crisis is the economic and financial crisis, whose effects have deepen and multiplied in the countries in development, regardless of the fact that it was originated in the main speculative markets of the rich countries of the North. Nevertheless, today financial crisis is only a symptom of the crisis of a system that put the financial and speculative economy in front of the real economy, and it is also a result of an international financial architecture that is unequal, excluding and inefficient and that has to be reformed urgently. Ecuador proposes that the crisis does not require a technocratic reform but a change of economic model.

For that reason, my Government strongly supported the decision of the General Assembly to invite, in last June, to the High Level Conference on the Economic and Financial World Crisis and its Impact on Development. In that Conference, the President of the Republic, Rafael Correa, became the main voice of the countries of the South advocating for the comprehensive reform of the world economic order that jeopardizes the life and the wellbeing of millions of people around the planet and also proposed to democratize and to redefine the international financial architecture.

In that Conference, important steps were taken through the recognition of the fundamental role of the United Nations in the reform of the system and international financial architecture. We celebrate that the Conference acknowledged the regional and sub-regional agreements as part of the multilateral responses to the current crisis.

Among all these responses, I have the great satisfaction to announce in this forum that last Saturday, 26 September, within the framework of the African-South American Summit that took place in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, our countries signed the Constitutive Agreement of the Bank of the South, that will start out with an initial capital of 20,000 million dollars. The Bank will constitute a financial multilateral entity that will fortify human development in South America. This milestone event is part of the proposal that has emerged within our countries on the creation of a new international financial architecture based on regional responses.

On top of this achievement we add initiatives such as the creation of the Common Reserve Fund for Latin America, the creation of a Regional System of Payments as a preamble to a Regional Central Bank and the consolidation of a common monetary system that will commence with an electronic currency to facilitate our commercial exchange. The good news is that we have begun to take fundamental steps in the case of the Unique System of Payment Compensation (SUCRE) that will soon enter into force within the Bolivarian Alternative of the Americas (ALBA)

We reiterate our questioning of the role of international credit institutions, IMF, and World Bank, since they actively cooperate in implementing strong economic and political measures against nations. We also reject, based on principles of sovereignty, the relations with arbitration centers such as CIADI that have only served to judge, sentence and benefit transnational interests over national interests.

For our countries the restructuring and relief of our external debt is urgent. We can not continue to give higher priority to paying external debt services in detriment of financing the recuperation of production and development.

We face a great pending task in regards to the effects of the crisis. The Working Group of the General Assembly on Financial Crisis will be the ideal mechanism to put in practices the compromises and duties that arose from the Conference last June.

This crisis has shown that capitalism as an economic model and of social relations is not viable. In addition it further shows unbalances among relations within the society, nature and economy. One of most evident examples of this unbalanced is climate change.

Last week we gathered at this Hall for the Presidential Summit on Climate Change. I must frankly state that it was a great disappointment. The rhetoric and lack of tangible compromises, with few exceptions, was abundant. Facing said evidence, our response has been insufficient and irresponsible. Furthermore, we heard last week that a major challenge is how to keep economic growth without affecting the environment. Thus, it sounded like keeping the current system with several cosmetic fixtures. We need to transform the means of production and consumption and not to keep growing without inventory benefit.

The principle of shared responsibilities contained in the Convention of Climate Change, recognizes that rich nations and over consuming elite are the great source of this scourge for that reason they must assume the costs of carbon emission reduction. Wealthy nations must make an additional effort to decrease emissions much more than currently due to the economic crisis. Reducing emissions is urgently but not enough. It is important to define adjusting measures especially among vulnerable countries with less economic possibilities to face the impacts of climate change. We are not speaking about donations or adjustment credits. There must be reparations that recognize the ecological debt, historic responsibility for excess of emissions during several decades even when warming effect was already detected. According to several serious studies it amount for 50,000 million dollars a year during 20 or 30 years.

We demand that northern countries comply and intensify their commitment adopted in the framework of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol regarding the adjustment, mitigation, development and transfer and financing of technologies.

However, we recognize that we have a shared responsibility to offer responses to climate emergencies. For this reason, Ecuador has given great importance to its commitment.

I would like to mention several examples of how my country is contributing to viable solutions.

1. Our first and surely our fundamental guidance for our environmental policies is the initiative Yasuni III: an innovative project that breaks traditional responses presented by President Rafael Correa, at the Summit on Climate Change in 2007. Ecuador decided to keep a considerable amount of its proven oil reserves underground. This represents 850 million barrels of crude that will generate the following three important benefits: 1) less contamination by the emissions in 410 million tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere, 2) protection of the indigenous population that live in the Yasuni National Park, and 3) biodiversity preservation. An international trust fund will be established in coming weeks as a financial mechanism that will enable us to receive international remittances to invest them in preservation and sustainable development initiatives for the country.

2. The Forest-Partner Program is an initiative that provides economic incentives to indigenous peoples to protect our forest. This will enable us to keep 30% of our total forest areas until the year 2015.
3. The Program to change main energy lines with the purpose to achieve that greater renewable and sustainable source of energy is utilized in the country. Currently in the Galapagos Islands, world heritage of mankind, one of these program initiatives is undergoing with the goal to achieve by 2015 that the Archipelago will operate with 100% of clean energy sources.
4. Ecuador proposed to OPEC the possibility of a 3% eco-tax on oil price so that decrease in demand and therefore decrease in carbon dioxide emissions is facilitated; poor people access to energy and investment in transition to renewable energy is facilitated as well.

Ecuador observes this time of crisis as an opportunity to radicalize the changes that will allow us to transform our societies that are currently based on competition and on irrational and untenable consumption, placing merchandise over people, in societies based on the harmony of human beings with their selves, with their peers and with nature.

For us, land, nature and the physical environment are essential components of the fundamental principal of our constitutional ordering of the well-being, "**Sumak Kawsay**". The principal of well-being means to live with dignity according with our cultural values and in harmony with nature, which is the base of the economical and social policies which my Government is applying to overcome social inequalities.

We also reaffirm the importance of food crisis. In an era where the technology to produce food in abundance exists and that the necessary amounts exists as well, there is hunger throughout the world. This is due to the fact that the right to food is mortgaged to the large agricultural transnational companies who control the worlds market. In addition, the existence of subsidies and other distortions towards the trade, greatly affect the agriculture of countries in development.

We firmly support the organization of the World Summit on Food Security which will take place in Rome throughout the sixty-fourth Period of Sessions of the General Assembly, with the purpose of obtaining agreements which will privilege the right of food security and sovereignty over the maximum benefit.

In order to achieve the proposed objectives in the Millennium Development Goals as minimum of survival and not as maximum of well-being, these goals must be complemented with a decisive support from the northern countries to increase the official help for development and international cooperation without the imposition of conditions.

By mandate of the General Assembly, the future revision which will take place in the year 2010 and must serve to set the foundation of all the efforts to save the errors and omissions of these Goals, specially the forgetfulness of considering the structural causes which have originated the problems that are now pretended to be fixed; the omission of the human rights focus, the absence of goals in the generation of valuable employment, among other aspects.

During the current session, the General Assembly must take strategic and important decisions for Ecuador, as well as for the rest of Member States. Decisions that will make the actions of the Organization much more effective towards the promotion and defense of human rights of people with differential capacities; the recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights; gender equality and the struggle against human trafficking, among other important issues.

I would like to refer in a very special way to my country's commitment to combat human trafficking scourge. We firmly support the necessity of a Global Plan of Action and we offer to the Organization our national experience in legal and control terms.

Another subject we consider essential for the agenda of this Assembly is the one of international migration. In the current Ecuadorian Constitution, one of our most transforming principals regarding international relations promotes the recognition of a universal citizenship, the right of freedom to migrate of all of earth's population and the progressive end of the foreigner condition. For us, there is no such thing as illegal human beings, what exists are illegal and immoral practices of exclusion and exploitation. In the very XXI century, markets and capitals do not find any frontiers meanwhile walls are been built to condition the mobility of human beings.

As said in the mandate assumed by the Head of States in the Final Document of the World Summit in 2005, Ecuador will keep on working towards a constructive multilateral dialogue in regards to migration, without limiting the integral focus of human rights of the migrants and their families.

As a country that privileges respect and the guarantee of all humans rights, Ecuador is, currently, the largest receptor of refugees in the occidental hemisphere and, with no intentions of damaging the support that we receive from the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees, it must allocate important economic resources to assist those people who are in need of international protection. We have applied first hand actions and policies in regards to the protection of refugees.

Ecuador, as a founder member of the United Nations, privileges the dialogue and the international cooperation in the solution of conflicts and considers that military actions cannot bring any kind of long lasting and sustainable peace in any zone in conflict of the world.

It is of international knowledge, the commitment of Ecuador for the stabilization process with the brotherly Republic of Haiti. Because of this, since the beginning of the Haitian crisis in February of 2004 and in consequence with the principal of our foreign policy of total support to the attention of humanitarian crisis and to the pacific solution of the conflicts, we have an active participation in MINUSTAH mostly of civil contingent.

I cannot conclude this statement without referring Ecuador's satisfaction to have reinitiated, a few days ago, a process that will lead us very soon, we hope, to the normalization of the diplomatic relations with the brotherly Republic of Colombia, the same that will be of great benefit for both of our people. This was made possible thanks to the space of dialogue and encounter that the General Assembly of the United Nations offers each year.

Finally, I reiterate the embrace of affection and hope of the Ecuadorian people and that of their President, Rafael Correa, to the rest of the world's people and to their representatives present here.

Thank you very much.