



Republic of Nicaragua

Statement by H.E. Samuel Santos López,

Minister of Foreign Affairs

General Debate

New York, 26 September 2011.

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President:

In this sixty-sixth ordinary period of sessions of the General Assembly, I extend to you a Christian, socialist, warm greeting from the people of Nicaragua and comrade President of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, with the trust that our work will contribute to the strengthening of our Organization; that our work will appropriately focus on the Purposes and Principles of our Organization and the contributions it can make in order that we successfully face the challenges before us as a community of States, peoples and nations.

One year ago, during our debates in the sixty-fifth period of sessions of the General Assembly, we extensively addressed the serious and multi-faceted international crisis bearing down on Humanity. We called it an apocalyptic crisis. One year later, the evolution of world events has but confirmed our profoundest fears that we are at the critical limit of civilization, and that peace between States and peoples is dangerously at risk.

Expectations that the international economic and financial situation would improve dissipated in the face of the relentless reality of a profound crisis; its gravest effects remain and continue to deeply affect our peoples. The international financial system, which is controlled by speculators, is once again in a spin. The measures taken had a temporary effect no longer present because of increased greed by bankers. We are now witnessing how the United States internal debt problem is causing great losses to most exchange markets.

Mr. President:

At present, as before, we affirm that we do not accept the language of war between peoples; that we reject war as a means for the solution of the conflicts between States. In light of what is happening in the brotherly Great Libyan Popular and Socialist Republic, we reiterate our statement of principles while expressing our solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people.

The blunt and shameful manipulation of Security Council resolution 1973 regarding Libya – the illegal nature of the war being carried out by NATO members – is the most recent example of the pathological need of certain States to subordinate the peoples of the World no matter the cost. It is the most recent example of attacks against the sovereignty of a member State of the United Nations in violation of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President,

Nicaragua expresses its firmest rejection of the use of the “misnamed responsibility to protect” in order to intervene in our countries, to bomb civilians and change free and sovereign governments. We cannot allow the imposition of this new model of imperialist aggression nor the continued aggression of our peoples. Interference and intervention will not resolve crises, only dialogue and negotiation between brothers will resolve the political crises facing the peoples.

Mr. President,

The unacceptable policy of double standards has become a constant of the powers clearly aspiring to hegemony. Where are these countries, the supposed defenders of oppressed peoples, the self-proclaimed civilian protection Apostles, when an attempt is being made to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, their right to live in peace, their right to a sovereign State integrated into the United Nations as a full member?

The double moral, the double standard is clear: after six decades of conflicts the Palestinian people would be deprived of their right to a state, while a mere ten days ago with unheard of haste and with certain irony I must say, this General Assembly recognized a Transition Council which has not yet constituted a government.

Mr. President, we reject the logic of negating the very existence of a Palestinian State. From the moment of the triumph of our revolution in 1979, Nicaragua has been a privileged witness to the struggle of the Palestinian people and of their substantial concessions.

Before this General Assembly, Nicaragua ratifies its recognition of the Palestinian State with its 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital. We call for the proclamation, here and now, of Palestine as member State 194 of the UN. Recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people can only become a factor for Middle East peace and stability. At present, more than ever, such recognition must become a reality.

Clearly, Palestine's right is accompanied by the existence of the State of Israel, a State we recognize in juridical and political terms. May both States exist so that both peoples may live in peace and work for their wellbeing and development, this is the universal clamor.

Mr. President:

Resolutions of our General Assembly demanding the end to the embargo by the United States of America against Cuba must be fully implemented. Despite expectations, the facts confirm that nothing has changed. Sanctions against Cuba remain intact and are rigorously implemented.

The criminal blockade violates international law; it is contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter; it constitutes a crime against the right to peace, development and security of a sovereign State. In its essence and its objectives, it is an act of unilateral aggression and a permanent threat against the stability of a country.

Despite the criminal blockade, Mr. President, Cuba continues to give solidarity, to be more fraternal, and the most sisterly of all peoples of the world. Their "white coats" army and army of educators is more numerous and solidary by the day.

We also join the call for an end to the injustices against the five Cuban heroes unjustly imprisoned for 13 years as of this past 12 September for having alerted their people about the activities of terrorist organizations against Cuba.

Although it seems untrue, the process of decolonization has not concluded and there remain whole peoples denied of their right to independence, to self-determination. We greet and continue to be in solidarity with the peoples of Puerto Rico, the Western Sahara and the struggle of the Polisario Front, with Argentina given the occupation of the Malvinas Islands.

Mr. President:

Observations regarding the need to arrive at a balance between human beings and Mother Earth, made before you in 2010, continue to be relevant; they even lead us to conclude that far from diminishing, pressures on the planet have increased; threats have increased and real and potential dangers have increased.

Among these, the Fukushima disaster in Japan has had the effect of bringing to the fore the hair-raising world risk of nuclear radiation. The Japanese crisis has rightly been described as "as a warless nuclear war." Outstanding scientists have recognized that its present and future repercussions, which as yet have not been fully determined, are more serious than those of the Chernobyl disaster.

While expressing our solidarity with the government and the heroic people of Japan, with the victims of the earthquake that leveled their territory and with those affected by the Fukushima accident, we vehemently call on States with nuclear reactor installations to take all measures to avoid similar accidents which would gravely endanger people's health and the environment.

Mr. President,

The upcoming Durban conference on climate change and the Río + 20 conference on sustainable development will offer us renewed opportunities which we must not squander to really break away from that destructive logic and to redirect humanity toward development that is harmonious with Mother Earth and respectful of the life of the 7 billion human beings that presently inhabit the planet.

We all know that we have been incapable of arriving at an accord regarding climate change. Although the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties (COP16) established a green fund and made a call for mobilizing financing for developing countries, the accords are far from addressing the serious damage being done to the environment and Mother Earth or the historical responsibility of the developed countries which are bent on dealing a final blow to the Kyoto Protocol in order to continue their uncontrolled emission of greenhouse effect gases.

In Río and in Durban we are called upon to renew our political will and to adopt real and concrete commitments based on previous progress and commitments. This issue holds fundamental transcendence for our planet and human beings. Development cannot sacrifice life. We recall that the Universal Declaration of the Common Wellbeing of Mother Earth and Humanity is an essential guide for our debates and actions.

Mr. President,

Regarding other issues, Nicaragua salutes the invitation to Taiwan by the international community to participate in the assemblies of United Nations specialized agencies directly related to the wellbeing of the 23 million Taiwanese. In this regard, we call on other international forums to adopt a similar position.

Mr. President,

The global economic and financial crisis has aggravated the already serious food crisis, primarily in the impoverished countries. We know this crisis also has structural causes rooted in the present capitalist development model, a model that discourages internal production, which does not result in the transfer of technology to the agricultural sector of the impoverished countries, a model where no credit is available, and where the lack of technical training of small and medium producers is coupled by productivity difficulties.

Climate change has become an additional important factor in the deepening of the food crisis. The trend of higher oil prices at the international level caused some countries with an agricultural base to begin producing bio-fuels, a phenomenon that significantly changed food supply and demand and reinforced the trend toward higher prices.

From the ethical and political, economic and social perspective, immediate concerted actions are indispensable in order that we avoid the continued increase in the number of people who are hungry and develop sustainable policies for guaranteeing food security in the world.

Mr. President,

We renew our commitment to the cause of general and complete disarmament. It is imperative that we establish Peace on Earth and offer the seven billion human beings that inhabit planet Earth, and Mother Earth itself, the opportunity to survive the destructive tendencies promoted by the dominant economic model, so that they may develop in an environment in which they can manifest their enormous spiritual and material capacity. There is no other way to a better future.

It is unjustifiable and unacceptable that the present world continues to increase its spending for the development and testing of all types of arms and to decrease spending for promotion of the life and development of human beings. While millions of persons suffer the effects of the economic and financial crisis, military spending in the world continues to skyrocket.

During the last ten years, these expenditures have increased by 50 percent, rising to 1.5 trillion dollars. More than eight million small arms and more than 16 billion munitions are produced every year; this is equivalent to 2.5 munitions for every person on this planet. This arms proliferation causes irreparable direct and indirect harm to the populace and their economy.

We can end this proliferation if we are determined. It is not true that the arms sector is of vital importance to the world economy. In fact, despite what small arms producers would have us believe, their trade and trade in munitions and other components represents less than 0.01 percent of the world's industrial transactions.

Mr. President,

We are firmly convinced that given the fact that the Korean Peninsula is a focal point of international tension, any solution must include willful and sincere dialogue between the parties in favor of maintaining peace and stability.

Mr. President,

The factors termed as the new threats to security have become a true assault to most of our countries. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal arms trafficking, and the trafficking of immigrants, among others, constitute an ethical, political and economic challenge for Central America which is presently stigmatized by international reports as one of the most violent areas on Earth.

This stigmatization is constructed and has serious consequences for our countries. It converts us into protagonists in the problem rather than victims, which is what we really are. We are victims of a lucrative business which is what these "new threats" constitute; they are threats that utilize our territories as a bridge from south to north and north to south in a vastly moneyed choreography where thousands of people are assassinated along illegal routes and faulty borders.

The International Conference in support of a Central American Security Strategy, held in Guatemala last June, exposed the seriousness of the situation. It is a situation which exists not only in our region, but in all countries. It is for this reason that the principle of shared but differentiated and proportional responsibility must guide mutual commitments. It is urgent that we move in the correct direction before it is too late for us all.

Mr. President,

Nicaragua is going through a period of changes that have the objective of reversing the negative effects of the long sixteen years of neo-liberal governments. We are rescuing values, reinstating rights, strengthening capacities, constructing a new Christian, Socialist and Solidary model which is replacing

the neo-liberal model of savage capitalism; we are articulating popular democracy through the National Human Development Plan. These projects constitute the frame for a new phase of the Sandinista revolution.

These achievements are greatly attributable to Nicaragua's integration into the ALBA (by its Spanish acronym), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our Americas; an initiative arising from the genius of Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro and Commander President Hugo Chávez Frías. This BROTHERHOOD, which is unique in our contemporary world, allows solidarity, complementary efforts and fair trade between our peoples, thus advancing the historic cultural unity of our peoples.

At the same time, our National Human Development Plan has the particular objective of promoting the economic and social health of the country by increasing employment and reducing poverty and inequality, and by focusing on sovereignty, security and integration.

The reinstatement of the human and constitutional right of all Nicaraguans, male and female, to free education is reflected in the fact that 1,821,682 students are registered in schools (while our country has a population of 6.5 million). This year we are fighting for universal primary education. Our objective is to reach universal sixth grade education by 2012, and universal ninth grade education by 2015.

The reinstatement of the human and constitutional right of the Nicaraguan populace to free health care means greater access and strengthening the quality of health services; it means a decline in mother-infant deaths; greater attention to the development of minors; the development of community family health; and the first broad registry of persons with disabilities.

Program LOVE (Programa Amor) services boys and girls under six years' of age and street boys, girls and adolescents who work during their school semester. The purpose of this program is to reinstate the fundamental rights of this sector of the population.

Regarding structural factors, we are making progress in the transformation of the major forms of energy production. In this area by 2017, 90 percent of the sources will be renewable and 10 percent thermal. This represents a radical upside down turn in the pyramid we inherited in 2006.

We are enjoying macroeconomic stability with a projected 4.0 percent or more GNP growth. Our development policies have increased direct foreign investment in our country's strategic sectors. We have made inroads in facing transnational drug trafficking and organized crime, and Nicaragua is recognized as one of the safest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the safest in Central America.

We have had indisputable successes reducing poverty and inequality which have been recognized by international financing organisms.

We fervently support the cause of Central American, Latin American and Caribbean integration and unity. Within the framework of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, complementary efforts, investments, just trade, and solidarity are helping us to anchor our model.

With our neighbors and brothers in Honduras and El Salvador we are jointly developing the Golf of Fonseca. Also, Comrade President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has several times offered the government and people of our neighbors to the south, Costa Rica, the possibility of us also jointly developing our common border, especially in the area of protecting and restoring the environment, and in the area of economic and social development for the benefit of both our peoples.

Throughout this process, youth and women have been at the forefront of the Direct Democracy Model which is the essence and continuity of the Sandinista Revolution.

Nicaragua has evidence of the *profound, concrete and verifiable* economic, social, political, legislative and cultural achievements being experienced by our people. In the context of the serious crises

that so many developed as well as developing countries are going through, our Christian, Socialist, and Solidary model constitutes an inspiration for an ever better future.

We are conscious of our difficulties and limitations. We know that the heavy weight of our historical, structural problems continues to be a burden we must eliminate in the process of our national development. The burdens of poverty and underdevelopment require sound policies and a sustained effort in favor of political and government systems deeply committed to the aspirations of the population. I can assure you that our National Reconciliation and Unity Government is fulfilling that responsibility and more.

As we said before, it is not simple for developing countries such as ours to deal with the level and depth of the global economic and financial crisis. We have not recuperated from the harsh effects of the last wave and the new threats of another and greater crisis now bear down on us. According to the International Monetary Fund, Central America's response to the previous world economic and financial crisis "was generally successful". We were able to face the situation successfully – success that had costs which in the case of Nicaragua were not passed on to the poorest because the measures we adopted were based on our country's interests.

Mr. President,

As we consider international developments, we must also turn our attention to our own Organization. Global democratization must without delay be accompanied by the democratization of the United Nations. In his book "Reinventing the United Nations, A Proposal," our comrade and friend former President of this General Assembly Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, expresses that "it is extremely urgent that we give true meaning to the democracy and independence of the United Nations, so that the opinions of all are heard; so that, without allowing for exclusions, those opinions really count in the decision-making process."

This proposal, adopted by our National Reconciliation and Unity Government, consists of proposals for a United Nations Charter, a Statute of the International Court of Justice, a Statute of the International Tribunal for Climate Justice and Environmental Protection (TIJCPA, by is Spanish acronym), and a Universal Declaration of the Common good of Mother Earth and Humanity.

Reinvention; re-foundation, are key concepts that will make it possible to develop an international system based on genuine multilateralism in harmony with the changes the world has undergone during the last few decades. We should return to international law and to the right of the peoples its authentic political dimension.

Mr. President,

Developed societies are sinking into desperation provoked by unemployment, the lack of social security, financial insolvency, the implosion of conquered labor rights, and an uncertain future. Wars of aggression with no moral or political base are being waged by global powers, thus causing material destruction and enormous human suffering. Economic and financial recuperation are nowhere in sight; on the contrary specialists foresee a recession that is even more grave than the one we have undergone.

Where do we find the solutions we so urgently need? Where do we regain the hope for a better present and future world with peace between States and nations, where the development effort, the impressive scientific and technological advances shared; a world where as stated by the Greek sophist, the human being is the measure of all things?

According to many magnificent thinkers on the global reality, the hour of the terminal crisis of the present capitalist development model has come; there is no time for reforms. As stated by Leonardo Boff, quote, "Another body of thought has to become our point of departure – a body of thought based on principles and values that can sustain a new experiment in civilization. If not, we will have to accept a path leading us to the precipice – a path which the dinosaurs already trekked." (End of quote.)

Nicaragua is living its conviction that a better future is possible if we are capable of steering in a new direction; if we struggle for justice and peace and if we commit to the development and defense of the common good of the Earth and Humanity.

Thank you very much.