

Mr. President, on behalf of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, I would like to congratulate you for your election to conduct the works of the General Assembly during its 67th session. Your experience and competence will be key for this, the most representative body of the United Nations, fulfills effectively with its mandates. For this you already count with all the support of Uruguay.

It is extremely relevant the focus that the GA has put this year on the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and I take this opportunity to welcome the Declaration approved last Monday by the GA on this matter. This subject is embedded in the essence of the role of this Organization and is basic for both, harmonious international relations as well as that of the individuals and societies. This issue will constitute, to a large extent, the central axis of my intervention today.

The respect and promotion of the rule of law, at the national as well as at the international levels, are two sides of the same coin, which has in the wellbeing of the individuals its main purpose. It means also that neither the individuals nor the States are above the law, but subject to it.

The Rule of law represents to Uruguay a constitutive element of the social contract that sustains its democratic system and which projects itself as one of the pillars of its foreign policy. It is also an inseparable factor of our way of life and of the institutional, political and economic development of our country.

And it is important to highlight that this didn't happen through extension or foreign induction, neither it came through the adoption of an abstract political model of external insertion, but it was the result of the deep internal process of construction and organization of the free coexistence of our people. Is then the historic experience which provides the basis for the international political-juridical elaboration, in large extent a transposition of national values to our international policy.

The principle of juridical equality of States, parallel to the equality among human beings, is one of the fundamental principles of our organization, by guaranteeing each of us the same right to participate in the responsibilities of the international community, independently of the power possessed by each nation. It is precisely in respect of this principle that our country rejects any coercive unilateral or extra-territorial measure that contravenes the rules of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, whose clearest contemporary example is the embargo unfairly set against the Republic of Cuba.

The principle of self determination of peoples, understood as collective right that needs to be observed in parallel to the respect of individual freedom at the domestic level, it is also a pillar of the Rule of Law. This freedom, that includes freedom of expression and the other fundamental freedoms, it is closely related to the existence of democratic institutions.

In this respect and without prejudice of reaffirming that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Uruguay has always defended the right of self determination for all peoples as a key principle for the international coexistence among States. In this sense, it reiterates its longing that a peaceful, just, lasting and mutually accepted solution for the Question of Western Sahara could be achieved, based on the International Law, the General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions, respecting human rights and the will of the saharai people.

In addition Mr. President, an independent judicial system, to which all persons have access based on the principle of equality before the law, it's a necessary requisite for the existence of a truly rule of law. An external projection of the State of the Law, which is related to the principle of juridical equality of States, is the vocation for peace and peaceful settlement of disputes, of which my country was an early promoter. Already in The Hague Conference of 1907 when it tried to introduce the Compulsory International Arbitration and in 1921 when it became the first country that legally committed to the compulsory

jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice under the only condition of reciprocity, my country showed its firm commitment with these values and principles.

The strong efforts of the international community to build a fair system, achieve balance between countries and obtain welfare for their societies, have not yet reached the ethical and policy solutions needed.

Recently we have seen what seems to be an era of changes in some regions of the world. Societies searching freedom with the limited means at their disposal, fulfilling their legitimate will to conquest democracy and better welfare. They have achieved certain goals but, at the same time, have lost of sight others when trying to overcome their suffering. In this sometimes desperate search, political actions of societies in search of alternatives, oppose those who are better organized and will prevail, as always have prevailed. Those who have now assumed power must be aware of their responsibilities with those peoples that have lead the way.

Eradicating tyranny, consolidating peace and making social benefits available for everyone are enormous challenges. But these are shocking processes that must necessarily include teaching how to construct political dialogue mechanisms to build the democracies of the future. Because that is the task: to build real democracies and building them with all the contradictions, differences and difficulties that exist within a society.

Eliminating differences does not solve political problems, as their social cost is too heavy and make countries stagnate, shattering progress. In the difficult task of building democracy, the worst option is to think whether governments have a powerful friend or not. This will not build democracy; it will lead us to repeat the worst mistakes of the past.

Democracy, good governance and an effective multilateralism, are essential for achieving sustainable development and represent a fundamental guarantee, particularly for small countries.

Even our region has received threats with a major ideological component.

The attempted coup in Ecuador and the breakdown of democracy in Paraguay, show that change governments have been affected in the implementation of their policies. Rule of Law and democracy are not acquired values, on the contrary, they must be defended each day as treasures. Recent events, such as those that took place in Paraguay, demonstrate that the Rule of Law is still threatened in our region. Despite progress in terms of democratic institutions in all our nations, threats to the full exercise of fundamental rights and democratic values still exist. This represents a great challenge in our commitment to strengthen integration and development between our countries, which raises as a necessary and unavoidable precondition the defense of the Rule of Law and the democratic order.

The nature of international society will never be idyllic, because we do not have elements that allow us to subtract Nations of their struggle for power, and because it is still stronger the premise of prevail to convince.

The operating logic of the community of nations is cruel, because it fails to do what it is essential and is unable to implement their programs with States in a social and human sense. Despite the great changes that humanity has suffered, the international system still works hard and does not solve the problem, or just solve them unfairly.

It has been unable to create financial and commercial equal opportunities. Even today, the investment in human resources in countries according to their specific needs, it is not a priority. The political activities of the system have been to control or decide political destinies, but not to give safety or welfare to people. Those who suffered before, suffer now. Powerful countries still threaten or engage in other countries, and humanitarian aid has been transformed, getting to be in the form of weapons, smart bombs and missiles.

We wrote about values and principles and we have incorporated them into our constitutions. We have preached in many ways that is good for everyone. But we have failed to meet the basic needs of billions of poor people, and we have not assured them health, education, housing or employment programs.

We cannot keep talking in the abstract, because that is the worst way to respond to people's real problems. That's almost worse than saying them that we do not care about their problems.

The basis of Social Justice have remained unchanged.

It is peace, it is freedom, because without it we cannot exercise the conscious of worthy causes that imply that one is not dominated or oppressed and without it there is nothing. It is the housing that protects the family, it is dignity work with a fair wage, it is the right to education and the obligation that each person has. It is health that can save seven millions of children under five years old that die every year in the world, and it is health that can assist and care for the old, the women and the destitute.

Is the safety of our people and the right to an environment that does not allow our generation to deplete the resources that we should save for future generations.

Truly revolutionary is to change the living conditions of those that cannot fully enjoy these rights, because our political ideal has to be, essentially, the human dimension and this must be solved making that the system ensures to each person the broadest assurances on their political rights and to be essentially fair about the obligations and responsibilities in this regard.

The broadest freedom implies the broadest responsibility. Each person in its individual and collective dimension must receive, possess and enjoy those rights that are critical to ensure the wellbeing of the whole, as a way to transform solutions in realities. The struggle for the transformation solves the struggle of every one to find a solution for their problems.

Society must solve egalitarianly the social problems because we cannot allow to delay them in time, as well as cannot be delayed in time the cure of diseases, because they corrupt us, weaken us or kill us.

Solving the causes related to poverty, lack of freedom or the impediments of enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights require concrete, urgent and immediate actions.

197 years ago, someone declared that the most unfortunates shall be the most privileged. His thinking was truly revolutionary, but there was something in it even more revolutionary, because took the burden of instrumenting and executing the changes that would provoke that reassignment of resources. He took his solutions to the most needed: to the widows with children, to the youth, the blacks, zambos and criollos that were poor.

Development necessarily requires the change. The present time leaves us as condition, before our projects, unsolvable problems such as misery, malnutrition, overcrowding, unemployment, child mortality and other economic flagella that a great part of humanity still suffers. Ergo, such system requires a change and the only way to achieve this is transforming reality.

Our responsibilities as society of nations cannot be eluded, because part of those problems arise as a natural result of the conditions and characteristics of the relations among the States. The international context tends to concentrate the wealth, efficiency and competitive and does not have mechanisms that can assign resources in a fair manner and efficient to facilitate a house for homeless, a dish with food for every starving person or that can break the oppressive chains.

The international system is based on the struggle among national interests to get a better position due to the power than can have and it makes the concentration of power to be bigger every time, while the challenges that other members of the international community put forward and the necessities become more relevant.

Nobody ignores that countries as our they move in "international markets" very competitive, that we do not determine prices in the international market, that commodities varies changing the national export matrix and that we are exposed to the financial crisis that can emerge.

To continue with this way of seeing the facts, it is indispensable to capitalize the international insertion of Uruguay integrating international matters to those of the country itself as in agriculture, industry, commercialization and financing. Always with the intention to eliminate poverty a to reach social equality and mainly consolidate a primary school education.

This requires, among other things, the reduction and elimination of the distortions that hamper trading flows, especially agriculture subsidies, internal support and other protectionist measures which do not allow international trade to become a factor for overcoming the financial crisis that affect the world economy. The elimination of these measures will have a direct effect on the increase of international demand for commodities and improves world food security, offering food producers better guarantees and opportunities.

Sustained economic and social development requires the stability and predictability that the rule of law ensures. This is particularly necessary in the cases of countries or regions that are emerging from arm conflict or situation of prolonged instability. The United Nations have understood such reality and it is encouraging to see how strengthening the rule of law and the institutions in charge of its application, represent central elements of the tasks of the different peacekeeping operations, peace building and special political missions, including the United Nations Stabilization Mission, MINUSTAH which Uruguay is one of the main contributors.

Our historical conviction that a national society must be ruled by the Law has led us to sustain that the society of sovereign nations has to be regulated in accordance with the International Law. The defense of the International Law has been a constant issue of the Uruguayan foreign policy which has promoted the adoption of international instruments with binding norms, because from our view the international system requires that the states - in a free fulfillment of their sovereignty - establish international juridical commitments and not just mere principle declarations.

In that sense, Uruguay hopes that the international community can take effective steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and compromises its effort to dispel this terrible threaten that hangs over the humanity. In addition to this, we invite every nation to redouble the efforts to allow to arrive, finally, to a Treaty that regulates the arms trade, activity which affects seriously the Latin-American and Caribbean countries and from other regions of the development countries.

With respect to the promotion and protection of Human Rights, the cooperation of Uruguay with the international system has reached one of its highest standards. Our country is part of all the relevant juridical instruments of Human Rights and International Humanitarian, maintains opened invitations to all the universal or interamerican special procedures to visit the country and recognizes the compulsory competence of all the Committees of Vigilance to receive complaints and individual communications. At the same time, Uruguay has mentioned its preference for the creation of organisms or international institutions with jurisdictional character. This old aspiration of our country was concreted at a regional level through the creation of the International Court of Human Rights, established by the San José de Costa Rica Pact in 1969.

Uruguay has been a member of the Human Rights Council since its creation in 2006 and currently holds the presidency of the Council for the period 2011 -2012. During our mandate, we have advocated for a new culture of dialogue, the progressive and incremental of special procedures and other instruments for action before the application of coercive measures and confrontation, a two way cooperative model

between states and the UN system, a greater coordination in the region and the necessary participation of civil society.

We have promptly clearly and constructively expressed our position on situation of grave human rights violations, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

At national level, we have strictly monitored our treaties and international commitments related to all human rights. We will submit three new reports to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We have also submitted our first report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

From the Presidency of the Human Rights Council, Uruguay has promoted the strengthening of the multilateral system of protection and defense of human rights. The protection of basic human rights, inherent to human being, stands as one of the pillars of democratic societies, determining the fulfillment and the participation of citizens and guaranteeing peaceful coexistence among citizens.

Moreover, the respect of these rights allows the empowerment of human being and its effective participation into societies, which is one of the inherent components of Rule of Law.

Since 2002, Uruguay is part of the Rome Statute and passed a law which can be considered as a model of cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), in regards with the fight against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Seven years ago, in this Assembly, when including the concept of Responsibility to Protect, we undertook the compromise to stop atrocities, giving priority to the prevention and cooperating with States -upon request- to help them to fully comply with their responsibilities to protect their population from these flagellum and respond in time and decisively in accordance with the UN Charter.

We strongly condemn the serious violations of Human Rights that are taking place in Syria. The situation has deteriorated and the sufferance of the civil population has become intolerable. We support the work carried out by the Commission of International Investigation set up by the Human Rights Council, which in its last report says that exist reasons to believe that governmental forces are committing crimes against humanity, as murder and torture, as well as war crimes and serious violations to the International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

The violence in Syria must be stopped immediately and it is necessary a dialogue process towards a peaceful solution. Uruguay supports the mediator role of the United Nations, inserted in the strict respect of the International Law and the principles of the Chart of this Organization.

The protection of civilians is a multi-faceted task, which more sensitive and urgent aspect is the protection of people who are facing imminent danger of physical violence.

But it is important also including a development perspective and the strengthen of the institutional capacities of the State to provide the basic services and to promote the Rule of Law. The United Nations, through de peacekeeping system, among other mechanisms, have advanced towards these goals. Uruguay, through its full commitment with the Peacekeeping Operations has played and will continue playing a proactive and constructive role not only in the field but here. Nevertheless, more efforts are necessary and a more important consistence among all the actors involved to avoid or minimize the more we can the civilian victims in armed conflicts.

Apart from that, I would like to highlight that this year we will have a new Resolution aimed to assure and developed children rights. We asked for the collaboration of Member States to the institutional and financial strengthen of the mandate of the Special Representative of the General Secretary on Violence

against Children, as the way to support the work that showed important and concrete results and which requires to be put in an equal position with other mandates that face the children situation.

Mr. President,

Human Rights are universal, interdependent and indivisible. And the guarantees for their existence, protection and promotion are only possible through the existence of a solid Rule of Law and by the good running of the democratic institutions. This is valid not only with regard to the civilian and political rights, as well as the economical, social and cultural ones.

Democracy, good governance and a more effective multilateral system, constitutes essential elements for developing countries to implement sustainable development.

For that reason, it is crucial that the United Nations adapts itself to global challenges, ensures its presence in the field and responds to the challenges of developing countries in accordance with their priorities and needs. In particular, I would like to highlight the situation of middle income countries, such as Uruguay, which in spite of our great efforts and achievements still needs support from the international community.

At the same time, it is imperative that the processes of development emphasize and address one of the biggest challenges to rule of law and democracy: poverty, including extreme poverty, which cause instability and insecurity in our societies. In that sense our country has made a priority to fight frontally and decidedly these social problems. In the last year, Uruguay has reduced poverty from 18,6 % to 13,7 % and extreme poverty from 1,1% to 0,5 % . The fight against the adverse effects of climate change , a key challenge to achieving sustainable development, is also one of our priorities.

Now more than ever, we must revitalize our global alliance for development and increase international cooperation flows. This without a doubt will be the greatest challenge for the international community in the century. The establishment of a new set of Development Goals, capable of guiding our actions and joining our efforts beyond 2015, is our responsibility and we must work arduously to fulfill it.

Finally, Mr. President,

If the strength and the sustainability of the rule of law a national level are based on the active participation of citizens in defending the rules that ensures the coexistence and development of each society; at international level rule of law requires the full respect for the principles of international law and the provision of the charter, as well as a strong commitment to the causes of peace, peaceful settlement of disputes and multilateralism.

This is the main objective that Uruguay has pursue in the process of United Nations building, as a founder Member, as well as through its participation in the Activities of the general Assembly. It is our aspiration to continue with this effort from the Security Council, in the case my country is elected as a non permanent member of this body for the period 2016-2017, as this is aspiration.

Thank you.