



BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JORGE VALERO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Vuk Jeremić,

Allow us to congratulate you for your election as President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and be advised that you may count on the support of the Venezuelan delegation.

Mr. President,

Our world is in the grips of new political, economic and social turmoil that disrupt the peaceful coexistence among the peoples of the world, and degrade the quality of life of millions of human beings. New neocolonial wars are launched for seizing the natural resources of developing countries.

Capitalism tries to overcome the deep crisis that is affecting this economic and financial system, appealing to new imperialist methods and the super-exploitation of workers, even in developed countries.

The Welfare State and the social conquests achieved by the peoples after World War II are dismantled. The responsibility of a crisis caused, primarily, by financial speculators is transferred to those born in other places and to immigrants. Social policies are reduced or eliminated. The middle class is impoverished. Hunger, poverty and unemployment reappear in developed countries and expand around the world. Suffering and despair grow.

Meanwhile, Latin America and the Caribbean have managed to face, with relative success, the impact of these global economic and financial imbalances. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reports that the economy in our region had a significant rebound from 2010, which enabled it to mitigate the effects of the 2008-2009 crisis.

Latin America and the Caribbean are well positioned on the world stage, thanks to the consolidation of regional integration initiatives, aimed at strengthening its political and economic autonomy.

Progressively, the domination that imperial powers and their multinationals have imposed on developing countries is overcome.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) is a new coordination mechanism where cooperation, complementarity, and solidarity between sovereign nations are practiced; it represents an alternative option for the final liberation and independence of our nations.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) are regional spaces of multilateral cooperation aimed at strengthening the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean, constructing a *multipolar*, balanced and just world in which the sovereign equality of States and a culture of peace prevail, in a world free of nuclear weapons and of weapons of mass destruction.

CELAC and UNASUR inspire a social and human development, with equity and inclusion, to eradicate poverty and overcome inequality in the region.

A new regionalism, driven by a supportive diplomacy, has emerged in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mr. President,

The *unipolar* system of imperial domination is in crisis. A *pluripolar* and *multicentral* system arises, in which emerging countries and new regional blocs contribute to the democratization of international relations.

Imperial powers promote, at the United Nations, a new regulatory framework for foreign intervention in the internal affairs of States, seeking that they would give up their sovereignty, political independence and self-determination. These powers have become judges, jurors and administrators in internal conflicts in countries of the South, using interventionist initiatives that are hatched at the United Nations and implemented through the Security Council.

A new international order, based really on the legal equality of States, in an unavoidable demand.

The re-foundation of the United Nations is necessary. The Security Council must be democratized in order to express the will of all countries. The General Assembly demands its revitalization, and the Secretary-General must be elected democratically, by all Member States.

International peace and security cannot be built on the basis of the privileges of the few.

Mr. President,

The international financial architecture, emerged in Bretton Woods, is undemocratic.

The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations are not taken into account when deciding on transcendental economic and financial matters affecting humanity.

The reform of the global economic and financial system has to be addressed at the United Nations. All countries must have an equal voice in the search for solutions to issues related to development.

Mr. President,

The same interventionist script applied in Libya is being followed in Syria. Imperial powers stir up ethnic, political and religious divisions between the Syrians and between neighboring countries. They supply, perkily, weapons to rebel forces trying to overcome the government of that Arab country.

Venezuela supports the peace efforts made by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the UN, Lakhdar Brahimi. We encourage the political dialogue between the Syrians. We reject foreign intervention and the terrible policy of regime change. We

support the positions of Russia, China and other countries that, at the Security Council, call for the unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian State. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) can play a proactive role in overcoming this crisis.

The Bolivarian Government reaffirms its support for the existence of a Palestinian State, independent and sovereign, under internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the Resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. It reiterates its support for the admission of Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations with full rights.

The warmongering threats of the governments of Israel and the United States against Iran are of great concern. A military strike against the Persian nation would have dire consequences for world peace. We recognize the sovereign right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. President,

Respect for cultures and religions guarantee a peaceful coexistence between human beings. Within the framework of the crisis of capitalism, racial hatred, xenophobia, and hostility towards other cultures and religions have reemerged in western countries.

The infamous video against the Great Prophet Muhammad and Islam has caused natural protests among Muslim peoples. These anti-Islamic expressions are not random; they are part of a political and ideological environment that promotes hatred against the different.

It is deplorable that freedom of speech is used to offend religions and denigrate its prophets. What is the limit of freedom of speech? Is this an absolute freedom that allows the deepest beliefs of human beings and the religiosity of the peoples to be tainted?

Venezuela rejects xenophobic demonstrations against Muslims and supports dialogue between cultures and civilizations, in order to promote peace and brotherhood

among human beings. We call, at the same time, for the respect of the inviolability of diplomatic premises and the dignity of human life.

Mr. President,

The United States continues to maintain its criminal economic and financial embargo against the brother Cuban people. Venezuela expresses its solidarity with the Government of the Republic of Cuba and demands an end to that unilateral coercive measure.

It is ironic that a country that practices the State-sponsored terrorism and protects the notorious terrorist Luis Posada Carriles includes Cuba in a list of countries that support terrorism. We demand the exclusion of Cuba from that arbitrary system whose sole purpose is to justify the economic, commercial and financial embargo against its people.

Mr. President,

Venezuela appreciates every effort made by the United Nations to improve its mediation capacities in crisis situations that may have negative consequences for international peace and stability.

It is necessary that the United Nations act in a neutral and impartial way, in order to strengthen its ability to mediate in cases in which it is voluntarily and expressly requested by the parties involved in international conflicts.

Latin America and the Caribbean treasures commendable experiences on the use of dialogue and mediation for the settlement of disputes. The Rio Group made a fundamental contribution to end the terrible armed conflict that took place in Central America, in past decades.

The Union of South American States (UNASUR) has given its --- in the prevention and settlement of disputes in our continent.

Venezuela welcomes the announcement made by the President of Colombia, Dr. Juan Manuel Santos, to start negotiations between his government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), in order to achieve a stable and lasting peace. Venezuela, Cuba, Chile and Norway are part of the dialogue process, as companions, by agreement between Colombian authorities and the FARC.

The Bolivarian Government bets for the peace and reconciliation of the Colombian people.

Mr. President,

Venezuela supports the sovereignty rights of the Republic of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas. It reaffirms its call to the United Kingdom to agree to negotiate, with that brother South American country, the search for a negotiated and peaceful solution to that dispute.

Mr. President,

Next Sunday, October 07th, democratic elections will be held in Venezuela to elect the President of the Republic.

Those will be transparent and credible elections because our country has, as expressed a few days ago by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the most advanced electoral system in the world. From 1999 through 2012 there have been neatly held fourteen (14) national electoral processes, a world record of political participation.

We responsibly denounce before the international community that national anti democratic and pro-coup sectors, in alliance with powerful foreign interests, will attempt to use violence in order to ignore the popular will. The Venezuelan people, however, are ready to defend, once again, its democratic and revolutionary achievements.

Venezuela needs a democratic opposition. Pluralism and diversity coexist in democracy.

And it is that peace is the only path that has before it the homeland of Simón Bolívar.

President Hugo Chávez guarantees the continuity of a sovereign and supportive foreign policy, in favor of the construction of the Latin American and Caribbean unity, the supportive cooperation with the peoples of the South, and the consolidation of a *multicenter* and *pluripolar* world, without imperial hegemonies. He also guarantees the continuity of a national policy based on social justice.

The successes of the Bolivarian Revolution are evident.

Venezuela has met, before 2015, the goals set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Households in extreme poverty have fallen dramatically, from 21% in 1998 to 7.1% in 2010. Social investment is one of the highest, at the international level. Venezuela has the highest minimum wage in Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to the Gini coefficient, our country is the most egalitarian in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to FAO, Venezuela is ranked tenth between the best-fed peoples in the world. We are the fifth country with the highest percentage of higher education enrollment, at the international level. Education and health are free, and all Venezuelans – without exceptions – have access to those rights.

And these extraordinary successes in the field of economic, social and cultural rights have been achieved within the framework of a participatory democracy in which civil and political rights are fully exercised, as never before in the country's history.

The Venezuelan people have recovered its sovereignty and self-determination. A libertarian, avenging and egalitarian Revolution is underway. That is the Bolivarian Revolution.

I thank you, Mr. President.