



MISION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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GENERAL DEBATE

**STATEMENT BY
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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
EL SALVADOR**

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**STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR SALVADOR SANCHEZ CEREN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR,
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
New York, 26 September 2014**

Mr. President of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please receive the warm greetings from the people of El Salvador, which I proudly represent.

Our history has been full of painful moments, but also of times of hope and courage.

For years, we fought to achieve the construction of democracy. We marked a historic world milestone when we became the first country to end a painful civil war through a process of dialogue and reconciliation.

Like most developing countries, we face the same challenges, namely to reduce poverty and social inequalities and to build the conditions that will allow families to have healthier and safer lives.

Experience has showed us that only through solidarity, respect, inclusion and equality it is possible to overcome these challenges.

In recent years, we achieved significant improvements in human development. In rural areas, we reduced extreme poverty to 13.6 percent; we allocated 14.8 percent of our GDP to social spending; and we raised primary education coverage to 93.7 percent while reducing illiteracy by a little more than five percentage points. We reached an important reduction in maternal mortality and we improved sanitation and access to drinking water for the population.

We are witnesses to significant transformations, and just as we did fourteen years ago, at the Millennium Summit, we are working now on the parameters that shall move us to a more just and equitable world. However our debt to humanity remains.

We keep working to create the factors that can increase our human development, bringing stronger social protection, which will in turn allow us to ensure sustainable universal access to basic social services.

We are one year away from the most important World Summit in our history, where we will evaluate the achieved millennium goals and objectives, and where, based on a new comprehensive, transformative, and inclusive development paradigm, we will define the new Post-2015 development agenda.

We believe in a vision of development that meets the needs of our peoples, in which all human beings have a full and dignified life, where we live in democracy, and where we enjoy the right to sovereignty and determination, as we choose our path towards peace and development.

The new development agenda must integrate universal issues such as migration, climate change, food security, education, health, public safety, and world peace.

We cannot keep falling into the errors of the past. From the experience of the MDGs, we must reduce inequality gaps and the causes of poverty and exclusion.

The new global agenda requires us to come to an agreement, and to face the great threat of climate change, which hits us with disasters and limits the opportunities for families to live with dignity.

The next few months are strategic for the establishment of a road map to implement the parameters of this new development paradigm.

We must work together in an approach of shared but differentiated responsibilities.

It is urgent to amend the existing financial architecture and International Cooperation instruments, so they respond to the needs of our peoples with efficient institutions and transparent mechanisms.

It is necessary to renew the terms under which development assistance is granted, its amounts, and the implementation of procedures that facilitate the principles of sustainable development.

The new development indicators should make exclusion and inequality visible by focusing on their measurement in terms of opportunities and the fulfillment of needs.

The objectives and goals should speak to and contribute as much to personal fulfillment and to our right to the pursuit of happiness, as to economic growth.

I call upon the United Nations to maintain its resources and programs in Latin America, and specifically in Central America, regardless of the macroeconomic classification of our countries.

To reduce the UN presence would only deepen the serious economic and social inequality problems suffered by the region.

Funding for development is vital for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I reaffirm the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which stresses that funding for development should take place based on the priorities of countries, making use of innovative financing mechanisms.

We must explore new sources, such as those found in offshore areas, a global common to which now only a handful of countries have access.

El Salvador expresses its commitment to the new global alliance for development, based on the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and the final document of the Rio + 20 Conference.

We have much work to do. However, we, the countries, will not do it unilaterally, but in the framework of the UN.

We must unite to advance the reform process of the United Nations, especially since we need a strengthened and renewed organization.

We need a General Assembly, main forum for global debate, with an agenda focused on the pressing issues of the international community; and we need as well a Security Council open to an increased representation and participation of all Member States.

We call upon the strong support and political will of all Member States to have an organization that can provide timely support before the new challenges presented by history.

Mr. President,

Under these global challenges, our government reaffirms its call for an agenda of comprehensive and inclusive development, social peace, capability building, and consensus building across sectors.

In recent years, my country has launched a process of transformations focused on sustainable development, the fight against poverty, the reduction of inequality and exclusion, and social injustice, additionally promoting a gender equality agenda and a human rights perspective.

In our country, the Universal Social Protection System Law is an invaluable tool that integrates for the first time a network of social policies and strategies that provide basic services to people, focusing on the most vulnerable population groups, and designed to address the main challenges we face.

El Salvador makes every effort to improve the quality of life of the population and to build the conditions that allow us to strengthen values, family unity, create opportunities for new generations, and raise awareness about the risks of irregular migration, especially to the United States.

I call upon the international community to give us their support, in order to overcome the crisis generated by the increased flow of unaccompanied migrant children traveling to the United States.

It is necessary that the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, assume an increasing role on the migration issue and recognize human mobility as a relevant factor in the work of the organization, including it also in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

When facing this multi causal phenomenon, we are convinced that we must act with a comprehensive approach that provides protection for the rights of our children, ensuring the respect of the due process of law and the support for the reunification with their parents.

We must work with the communities of origin of the migrant population, to generate better conditions, increase the investment in education, health, safety, and jobs; all this with a perspective of joint responsibility between the countries of origin, transit, and destination.

The threat to public safety is another major challenge faced by our country and others in our region and in the world. We will not rest until we ensure the necessary conditions for Salvadorans to live safely and in peace.

All sectors of our society are joining the call of our government and we hope that the international community strengthens its support for this titanic struggle that El Salvador and Central America are fighting against violence in its different forms.

Mr. President,

We observe with concern a number of conflicts and threats to international peace and security. We deeply regret the loss of lives, particularly of children, as a result of indiscriminate attacks over Gaza.

We welcome the efforts of the peace plan presented by Egypt, and we urge the parties involved to make their efforts to ensure a firm and lasting peace that achieves, within secure borders, the coexistence of two states, Israel and Palestine.

We are concerned about recent attacks and human rights violations of the self-proclaimed Islamic State, against a defenseless civilian population. We call on the international community to close ranks within the UN organizations to end these brutal facts.

Only a coordinated action of our multilateral system can achieve the results we all expect.

Our commitment is always for peace. All citizens of the world must become peacemakers, as Saint John Paul II himself said during one of his visits to El Salvador.

El Salvador, as a beneficiary of UN support during our historic peace process, can only further strengthen its commitment to support Peacekeeping Operations around the world.

As a country, we are backing the operations with our prompt contribution to the Stabilization Mission in Mali, and we are accompanying the process of the Haitian people through a joint effort of the United Nations system in a task that cannot be neglected.

Mr. President,

I wish to stress that human rights is one of the priority working areas of our foreign policy. El Salvador has presented its candidacy to the Human Rights Council, which will held elections during the present session period of the United Nations General Assembly.

This candidacy represents for us, an opportunity to continue to work on our international commitments and to demonstrate the importance of living under the rule of law, in harmony with our environment.

Mr. President,

In the pursuit of peace efforts, as well as in the pursuit of inclusive and equitable development, there is no place for the disdain of fundamental principles and freedoms which is found in the economic, commercial and financial blockade against our sister republic of Cuba, a country which, despite such unilateral actions against their people, has overcome with exemplary manner, perseverance and determination, the obstacles and adversities imposed.

Consequently, El Salvador calls for an end to this blockade.

We believe that the inclusion of Cuba in the list of States Sponsors of International Terrorism is unfounded.

Cuba must be excluded from this mechanism, whose sole purpose is to justify the blockade.

I want to highlight the contribution to multilateralism from the countries of Central America, Latin America, as well as our regional organizations.

I make special mention of the Central American Integration System (SICA), with which we have hammered out a multidimensional regional agenda that guides our regional work through five main pillars: Economic integration; social integration and the fight against poverty; comprehensive disaster management and the adaptation to climate change; institutional strengthening; and democratic security.

Our region needs international support for the Central American Security Strategy, which will allow our governments to complement national efforts and to achieve greater impact on regional security. I reiterate the call for the international community to give its full support to this Strategy.

The efforts made from regional bodies such as SICA, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC, are fundamental, and are aimed at strengthening the solidarity and cooperation among all peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

As I have expressed, we are witnesses to an unprecedented process of change in the world, which brings along both opportunities and challenges.

To excel, it is up to us to unite and integrate our peoples and governments in a global community, a community committed to the values of democracy, peace, equality, progress and development.

I want to conclude by stating that from our modest possibilities, we are ready to meet that challenge.

Thank you.