



*República del Paraguay*

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*Intervención en nombre de la República del Paraguay*

*Debate General del 70° periodo de sesiones de la Asamblea General*

*Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República del Paraguay*

*Don Horacio CARTES*

*Nueva York, 28 de septiembre de 2015*

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*Statement of the Republic of Paraguay*

*General Debate of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly*

*His Excellency*

*Mr. Horacio CARTES*

*President of the Republic of Paraguay*

*New York, 28 September, 2015*

Mr. Chair President, Heads of States and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen:

70 years ago, on the ruins of the Second World War, the United Nations was born, with the purpose of maintaining world peace and security, and promoting cooperation among all nations.

The Republic of Paraguay is one of the 51 States that signed the UN Charter, which has become a historic contribution to the international community.

For Paraguay, the right to equality and respect for sovereignty among States, both large and small, justifies the reasonable expectation in the full consolidation of the United Nations.

Mr. President:

I express my best wishes for success in your performance at the outset of this 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well that my fellow dignitaries and representatives from all participating States contribute with generosity and intelligence to assert the rights and obligations that justify and serve the legitimacy of our Organization, which shall always aim to innovate, in order to overcome the exclusion from development and prosperity that still affects a large portion of the world population.

With unique appreciation I greet Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, to whom we had the honor of receiving in my country in February this year. His visit further strengthened the links and commitment with the Organization and multilateralism.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to the Secretary General my gratitude for recognizing the work and results of our Government's fight against poverty as well as his appreciation for the abundant and renewable clean energy that Paraguay is blessed with.

Mr. President:

The strengthening of this Organization should aim specifically to the construction of a truly fair, solidary world, and with the face of human dignity to a universal scale.

This entails overcoming inequities and inequalities that still overshadow the world order, which will be a reality as long as the effective enforcement of international law is achieved and the dream of a peaceful era and well-being shared among all our nations is fulfilled.

With regards to Paraguay, the main objective of our Government is to reduce poverty, through public policies to eradicate it in the short term. Therefore, we maintain and increase the scope of the assistance programs, especially those focusing on extreme poverty and through tied aid.

Generation of opportunities, employment, decent housing, respect, equity and access to education, health and quality basic public services constitute the arsenal of our tireless struggle to eradicate extreme poverty in our country.

These programs provide comprehensive and permanent solutions to enable people to become autonomous and self-fulfilled.

We stride for an inclusive economic growth of our country, so that progress reaches all Paraguayans.

We are encouraged of the fact that Paraguay is one of the countries with the highest economic growths in the region, which has been achieved by improving our production capacity and competitiveness, allowing us to grow as an important agro exporter country.

We are diversifying this economic model through industrialization and through an increased momentum of production chains, considering the current global economic context.

To the value of our raw materials, which requires domestic and international investments, we are exponentially adding the construction industry, which is rapidly changing the profile of our cities.

Similarly, we aim to expand and modernize the infrastructure works, with the conviction that by transforming the country, we are reducing poverty.

And we continuously maintain the importance of youth in our country. Paraguay is a young country; 75% of our population is below 40 years old which represents a valuable human capital. I welcome with appreciation the enthusiasm of young people, particularly the Paraguayan students who the past couple of days united their voices in the pursuit of transparency within public administration and quality education.

We trust the immense potential of our youth and we firmly believe in the importance of access to high quality education to achieve the full progress of our nation. That is why we created a scholarship program with an investment of 73 million dollars so that 1500 Paraguayan professionals can have the opportunity to complete master's degrees and doctorates in some of the best universities around the world.

This Government, committed with transparency and the fight against corruption, scourge that undermines the basis of society, has recently, in the past September 17<sup>th</sup>, set in place the legal instrument that regulates the law on "Free Access to Public Information and Governmental Transparency" that allows all citizens to exercise their constitutional right to be informed. We promote a culture of transparency, and from the beginning of our term we have ratified that "may the public be public".

Mr. President:

These national efforts will not be enough without international policies that promote effective cooperation, equitable exchanges, and adequate complementation between countries and between regions.

These three conditions: cooperation, exchange and complementation, urgently require a paradigm shift, and that the United Nations should assist with these international policies.

We are living in the *Age of Globalization*. Technology has put the whole world within a few keystrokes' length. We are almost instantly aware of what happens halfway across the world, which then affects us directly and personally. We live connected all the time.

Within this context, how does one board the train of development? The 21<sup>st</sup> century requires a key asset: *qualified human factor*. The new challenges are designed to the extent of qualified men where fitness for survival is directly proportional to the degree of real and effective academic training.

Following the political and industrial revolutions, and as a result of "Globalization" the "*Knowledge Revolution*" took place. Consequently, at this time the human element remains

the most important and essential resource, but on the condition that men must be sufficiently trained. Education is the key.

Therefore, it is imperative that UNESCO be strengthened. The developed countries are obliged by fairness and ethics to an increased contribution for its financing.

Quality education and scientific research should not only be deemed patrimony of some countries but a public good of universal nature.

Mr. President:

We witness with great concern today a huge and endless exodus of families fleeing conflicts, as our brothers living in Syria and other countries due to the violence of radical and intolerant groups.

We can not turn our backs on this human tragedy that is currently occurring. We call upon our Organization to appeal to Member States, in particular those in the region, to adopt the necessary measures in favor of the most vulnerable sectors of civil society.

Paraguay reaffirms that Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control are essential factors for international peace and security and the guarantee that the most vulnerable countries rely on, in order to secure a sustainable economic and social development.

We thank the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency for their confidence in our country, having being elected unanimously, for the first time, to its Board of Governors. From that position, we will act with absolute impartiality and balance, in order to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. President:

Another major issue of concern is the preservation of the environment. Paraguay, like many developing countries, prioritizes public policies to preserve the integrity and diversity of the natural heritage, which we inherited from our ancestors.

We are aware of the great responsibility of all humanity to safeguarding the resources upon which their existence depends. It is with this awareness and commitment that Paraguay implements the rational management of natural resources and promotes the use of renewable sources of clean energy, in harmony with nature and in pursuit of development.

The whole world has heard the urgent call of His Holiness, Pope Francis, as repeated last Friday in front of this plenary, to protect our common home and for urgent dialogue on the way we are building the future of the planet, and to unite the whole human family in the search for a sustainable and comprehensive development.

In a masterful way, the Holy Father described climate change as a global issue with major environmental, social, economic, distributional and political dimensions, and posing it as one of the current challenges for humanity, whose worst impacts will probably fall upon the developing countries over the next coming decades.

He further argues that, in fact, the deterioration of the environment and the society affect particularly the weakest in the world and that that inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries, forcing us to think on the issue of ethics within international relations.

Looking into to the next Summit on Climate Change, scheduled for later this year in Paris, we must redouble our efforts and ratify a serious political commitment to mitigate, alleviate and reverse the devastating consequences of climate change.

Mr. President:

The landlocked condition of a country has its relevance. To address this situation, we propose, together with 32 other countries in the same situation, a special and differential treatment from more developed economies, in order to allow us to improve our competitiveness without high tariffs barriers and non-tariff barriers.

Real integration also entails the transfer of knowledge and capital investment and, simultaneously, goes through a balance, in terms of trade and bilateral and multilateral treaties.

Indeed, the reduction of asymmetries goes through an economic, social and cultural integration, with a view to a common destiny; not in leonine policies in which weaker countries have to bear the biggest share of the burden.

Mr. President:

Democracy is a political system in expansion and it is sustained on the indivisible principles of equality, freedom and sovereignty.

If we want democracy to rule within our own republics, it is fair that we would also want it for the United Nations, aiming to the prevalence of democracy, equity and geographical representation within the United Nations system.

In that sense, Paraguay supports the process to reform the Organization, in order to strengthen the General Assembly as the most representative body within the Organization, restoring its legitimate powers, which must be interdependent to those of the Security Council, according to the purposes enshrined in the United Nations Charter of 1945.

Paraguay follows with great interest the process that is being carried out in the context of the reform and expansion of the Security Council, and considers that it is necessary to improve their working methods and that their decisions be more transparent, also listening to the views and vision of States not Members of the Council regarding issues that relate to international peace and security, which will undoubtedly have an impact on them.

Paraguay welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in order to reduce tension across the Taiwan Strait, which contributed greatly to ensure peace and stability in East Asia.

Our government calls for the continuation of pragmatic dialogue and mutually beneficial interaction between both sides of the Straits that also have the recognition of the international community.

Similarly, Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to supporting the peace process in the sister Republic of Colombia, initiated by President Juan Manuel Santos, and wishes that the conflict that has claimed thousands of innocent lives. We welcome the agreement reached this past September 23<sup>rd</sup>, in La Habana, which signals an important step to achieve the long-awaited peace in that noble nation, linked to my country by honorable historical ties.

Mr. President:

Among the priorities for moving towards a more balanced, fair and dignified world is the promotion of human rights. For us, rights to freedom, free assembly, human integrity and quality of life, are essential.

While discriminations, either racial, religious, political or gender base, endure we shall continue to have a deficit in terms of human rights.

It is with this vision that Paraguay has put its efforts and has acceded for the first time to the United Nations Human Rights Council, where it holds one of the Vice chairs.

It is for the social dimension that we give to these inalienable rights, that we are aiming to join the United Nations Economic and Social Council for the period 2019-2021.

Paraguay is brimming with youth. This inspires us to vigorously promote the active participation of young people in building a more just and free society, in addition to the protection of the rights of children and women in our country.

Mr. President:

Fate has put us in a huge responsibility to govern and represent our nation in times when international solidarity becomes imperative.

The Paraguay brings from the beating heart of America's commitment to continue caring and participating in that beautiful dream emerged 70 (seventy) years ago, to strengthen peace and security in the world.

Mr. President:

Fate has given us a huge responsibility to govern and represent our nations in times when international solidarity becomes essential.

Paraguay brings, from the beating heart of America, its commitment to continue looking after and participating in that beautiful dream emerged seventy years ago, to strengthen peace and security in the whole world.

Today's reality calls upon us, more than ever, to protect our common home, our damaged and mistreated planet.

Let's fully assume this challenge so that we can be able to bequeath to future generations a world at peace, fairer, healthier, more inclusive, a better place to live.

May God bless us all.

Thank you.