



VENEZUELA

**Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations**

**Statement by Engineer Nora Delgado, Vice Minister of Environmental
Ordination and Administration, at the High Level Segment of the 14th
Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

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Good afternoon, our for all the peoples of the world gathered at this meeting on the occasion of the 14th Session on Sustainable Development which focused on reviewing the progress of the commitments made in the United Nations Conference on Development and the Environment, Rio-92 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, on energy, climate change, atmosphere and industrial development issues.

All of them are issues closely related to development, and that we currently deemed as unsustainable. I invite you to reflect on it. Why are we at this forum? Which are the Member States expectations when its representatives travel from several kilometers away and cross the borders to attend these global meetings? Our motivation is as follows:

1. We expect to make a contribution in the search for solutions to save the Planet, since it is giving signs of being threatened to destroy. If we keep on living as we are living nowadays we will not be able to guarantee its survival,
2. What are these signs? Climate change, pollution, natural disasters which pose a threat against life,
3. What happened and why it has happened? We think that the development model imposed by capitalism to the people of the world has led to the destruction of our global home, the Earth. A model which exacerbates an exaggerated consumerism, a proof of it is the increasing demand for energy.
4. And what to do to prevent its destruction? As President Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías said on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, "...there cannot be development without humanism. We are being discussing these problems for more than 30 years and we could even spend 40 years more without making any progress toward the sustainability of our planet..."

Mr. President,

While we continue to live immersed in a society who places consumption in the top of his scale of values, a major energy squandering, dependency on motorized transportation, a polluted industrial park which has made millions of citizens to breathe polluted air and has caused devastating natural disasters, we cannot make any progress on sustainable development.

Venezuela continues to call to change the neo-liberal development model. We have initiated the construction of a new development model environmentally sustainable, a socialist model on sustainable development that besides the central participation of communities makes possible the design of productive projects. A model based on the respect for the potential environmental characteristics of every geographical region in our country. Our Bolivarian Constitution highlights the coresponsibility of both the State and communities in the preservation of our environmental patrimony.

Likewise, the revolutionary Government of Venezuela is making important progress in the implementation of a new mechanism for cooperation, the so-called the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (BAA), based on the core principles of solidarity and complementarity of the countries in relation to the fair and democratic use of their own resources. We hope that this newly initiative will become the engine to ensure the reductions of socioeconomic asymmetries and a fairer and more just society.

Currently, we are engaged in the consolidation of PETROAMERICA, a proposal for energetic integration embraced within the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (BAA), in which converged three Sub - regional initiatives, namely PETROSUR, PETROCARIBE and PETROANDINA, which are beneficial for South, Central American and the Caribbean region.

Thanks to this initiative, Venezuela was able to help and express its solidarity to our brotherly country of the United States of America during the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. Alike, we could also mention the assistance provided by supplying free oil for heating to deprived sectors of the population.

Mister President,

Venezuela, in only seven years of Bolivarian revolution, is able to show important social, environmental and economic achievements. Recently, Venezuela was declared by UNESCO to be illiteracy - free territory. More than the 70 per cent of the population is entitled to receive free medical assistance. Unemployment has been significantly reduced by 9 per cent as a result of the creation of more that 700,000 job opportunities. Also, we acknowledged the rights of our indigenous people by delivering to them the ownership of more than 1,976,000 acres of land that originally and ancestrally belonged to them.

In relation to energetic issues, we account on an electric coverage of more than 90 per cent, the highest rate in Latin America and the Caribbean, from which the hydraulic sources generate the 75 per cent of the electricity consumed in the country.

It is also important to underscore the entire elimination of lead in gasoline distributed across the country; the construction of an electric railroad system, And the adoption of a productive reforest national plan in 49, 400 acres of forests.

Mr. President

The solution for the problematic situation on climate change should be based not only in the search for new energy sources but on the commitment of developed countries responsible for the strong emissions of 'greenhouses gases' by implement mitigation plans.

We denounce that the oil producing countries are being subjected to manipulation while associating the oil prices as to aggravating poverty, without analyzing the real cause of

the problem. Let's find out its roots on the neo-liberal development model and in the financial adjustment programs imposed and in the war.

Mr. President,

The Bolivarian Government claims for the sovereign rights of the countries to decide over the sustainable use and management of both their natural resources and their energetic and environmental policies.

Unfortunately, we are being bad called developing countries since we are being compared to a capitalist development model, destructive of the Planet. This is not the model that we want to follow. If this is the only way for us to reach development, we refuse to choose this option. To that end, we are convinced that there is a different alternative, the Bolivarian, the one that connects the peoples and shade light and justice for our men and women alike without any discrimination.

Mr. President, Delegates: Let's save the Planet

Thank you