



ECUADOR

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR DIEGO MOREJON PAZMIÑO
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ITEM: CULTURE OF PEACE**

New York, 13 November, 2008

** Check against delivery*

Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann
President of the General Assembly,
Distinguished Delegates,

I feel highly honored to address this Assembly on behalf of the people and the Government of Ecuador. My country is convinced that dialog, juridical equality among states, mutual respect, self determination, cooperation and peaceful coexistence are basic guiding principles of the relations among nations.

Ecuador indeed supports the pacific settlement of international disputes and conflicts and strongly rejects the threat or use of force as a mechanism to resolve them. Furthermore, my country condemns the interference on states' internal affairs, as well as any form of intervention. Loyal to this principle, it promotes peace and universal disarmament as well as condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

As a founding member of the United Nations, Ecuador has translated into its juridical structure the norms stated in the Charter as well as the principles derived from the constitutive document of UNESCO and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But we have gone further in our current Political Constitution approved recently by a great majority through public referendum. Ecuador proclaims itself a state of "rights" with which individuals, groups, associations, educational communities, enterprises and institutions have in their daily routine a consistent compromise based on the respect for life, the condemnation of violence, generosity, understanding, environmental preservation and solidarity among other essential elements to reach inclusion and social equality. Furthermore, our new political constitution condemns the imposition or settlement in people's soil of foreign bases by other States with military purposes, since we declare our nation as a peaceful territory.

Additionally, my country has established basic principles such as tolerance and multiculturalism respecting all types of religion and cults including the enormous spiritual richness of our indigenous population and Afro-Ecuadorians.

President Rafael Correa stated during the 10th commemoration of the signing of Peace Accord with our brotherly neighbor Peru that "we have to build a profound sustainable peace on the basis of development and justice".

That is, Mr. President, precisely what Ecuador is doing, building each and every day with compromise and effort, that peace with social justice, with equality, with dignity and respect. We are committed to building a supportive human society that favors regional integration

To that end and convinced that "peace brings progress", our current administration since taking office has actively participated with its Peruvian counterpart in implementing at the south Ecuadorian border several projects in different areas including: transportation, trade, mutual trust measures, irrigation channels, tourist plans, highways and country roads, migratory mechanisms, educational programs and cultural exchange, hydroelectric headquarters, environmental measures, a bi-national park for peace among others with a joint investment of 4,000 million dollars for executing projects, as the President said "our political will is to change the development pattern. Today we are trying to fortify the border and go beyond to a human security concept".

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

We firmly believe in Ecuador that a human being must be considered a central subject of the international order and the strict respect of his human, civil, political, economic, social, cultural and collective rights must be the center of external action under the premise that human rights are universal, inter-dependent and indivisible. The application of said principles must be guided by the rules of universality, impartiality, objectivity and selectivity and constructive dialog, cooperation necessary in order to foster the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to development.

The same view applies in regards to the implementation of the "Plan Ecuador" in the border zone with Colombia. Its purpose is to conceive human security as a result of peace and development. This plan counts on three fundamental axes: firstly, consists in merging security and culture of peace aimed at the satisfaction of human beings' needs and the potential of his capabilities and freedoms. Secondly, fosters the maintenance of equitable and suitable policy of international relations; and third affirms a defense policy based on the protection of population and natural resources, national heritage and effective control of its territory.

Due to the impact of the internal Colombian conflict in the Ecuadorian society, "Plan Ecuador" focuses its efforts on the basis to a preventive, multidimensional and multi-sector focus that aims at solving grave problems derived from poverty, exclusion and violence.

Its application is based on the compliance of national social and economic development objectives, international agreements in the field of human rights, conservation and sustainable exploitation of natural resources and the fight against all kind of illegal activities that affect human security.

We propose to that effect the fortification of the bordering provinces economy to create a better quality of life for the people, by increasing the presence and the coordination of our State institutions and also by strengthening the capacity of management of the government and the local social organizations.

Fortifying humanitarian help, minimizing the environmental impact of productive activities and preventing entailment of people with illegal activities are the only methods that an efficient response can be done for all the social demands that have been accumulated and for all the problems derived from the displacement of human groups because of the internal conflict in Colombia.

The Plan Ecuador is a starting point that establishes the political agenda of the government regarding the northern border. This instrument has been enriched with the help and participation of the main local actors.

The refugee issue in the northern border area is a national priority for my country when dealing with building a culture of peace. To foster integral economic and social development and build a zone of peace, as it is conceived by the Plan Ecuador, public state policies regarding refugees guarantee their protection and at the same time provide a lasting solution for those hundreds of Colombian brothers that need international protection.

Ecuador has implemented key strategies to fulfill such high humanitarian objectives that deserve a special mention. Such strategies allow an active insertion of people in need of international protection into the Ecuadorian society, making Ecuador a country with the largest number of refugees in the occidental hemisphere.

Finally, and despite the enormous investment in human and economic resources for refugees that has gone beyond the countries' possibilities, Ecuador renewed its compromise regarding attention to this issue, same compromise that has been fortified by the implementation of this renewed policy on the subject of refuge.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

Everything I have said in this statement constitutes the examples of what my country and government have implemented for the promotion and effective application of a culture of peace. Ecuador is truly convinced that by building a new multi-polar order that actively incorporates the economic and political regional blocks and by strengthening horizontal relations, a better, just, democratic, diverse and world can be built.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.