



REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ECUADOR
AMBASSADOR PATRICIO ZUQUILANDA**

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

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MISTER PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR, ENGINEER LUCIO GUTIÉRREZ, AND THE PEOPLE OF ECUADOR IN THIS WORLD FORUM OF NATIONS, TO AFFIRM ONCE AGAIN THAT MY COUNTRY IS AN ALLY OF STATES THAT DEFEND PEACE, AS WELL AS THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. ECUADOR IS A LAW-ABIDING COUNTRY THAT FOLLOWS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AS A PRINCIPLE, AND WHICH IS A STAUNCH DEFENDER OF ALL THE MANDATES ARISING FROM THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IT IS WORTH HIGHLIGHTING ONCE AGAIN THAT ECUADOR, IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, OPPOSES ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION OR SEGREGATION, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM.

ON THIS OCCASION, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR MUST ONCE AGAIN ASK THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANISMS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE HEAVY BURDEN, WHICH THE SERVICE OF THE DEBT REPRESENTS FOR OUR COUNTRIES; YEAR AFTER YEAR, THIS SERVICE EXERTS A HEAVY PRESSURE ON OUR ECONOMIES.

THE ECUADORIAN GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MUST ADVANCE WITH GREATER DETERMINATION IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AIMED AT EFFECTIVELY REDUCING EXISTING PRESSURES, AND, FURTHERMORE, IN THE FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE EFFICIENT TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE IN THE LONG TERM, IN VIEW OF ENABLING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR MUST ADDRESS ONE OF THE MOST TRANSCENDENTAL PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY; THAT IS, THE SITUATION OF CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE MIDST OF ARMED CONFLICTS, AN ATROCIOUS PHENOMENON THAT REFLECTS A REALITY ENTIRELY AT ODDS WITH THE MOST ELEMENTARY ETHICAL AND MORAL PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN CONDUCT, WHICH DESTROYS THE BASIC PREMISES OF CIVILIZED COEXISTENCE, WHERE THE RESPECT OF LIFE AND THE DIGNITY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS MUST NECESSARILY BE A PRIORITY.

IT IS TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO GIVE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY AND A DETERMINED POLITICAL WILL TO TACKLE AND ELIMINATE ALL THESE BLOODY AND INHUMAN CONFLICTS, WHERE THE RULE OF HUMANITARIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW HAS DISAPPEARED. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO REINFORCE THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICTS, IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE FAILURE OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL STRUCTURE.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

TRUE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND ITS HUMANITARIAN VOCATION, ECUADOR HAS BEEN WELCOMING THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FROM COLOMBIA AND OTHER NATIONALITIES, WHO HAVE FLED THEIR COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEIR LIVES, THEIR FREEDOM AND THEIR SECURITY HAVE BEEN THREATENED. HOWEVER, WE MUST REMIND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT TO SOLVE THIS CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN SITUATION WE NEED THE COMMITMENT OF ALL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISMS. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND SHARED BURDEN, REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT DESTINATION COUNTRIES LIKE ECUADOR RECEIVE GREATER TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT, IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE SOCIAL BURDEN IMPLIED BY THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF REFUGEES ARRIVING AT LOCAL BORDER COMMUNITIES, WHICH ARE AFFECTED BY SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF POVERTY AND LACK BASIC SERVICES.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHERN BORDER OF ECUADOR MADE BY THE UN INTER-AGENCY MISSION, WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO IMPLEMENT THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS SUGGESTED BY THE REPORT. LIKEWISE, ECUADOR ASPIRES TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANISMS IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR ALSO URGES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE TRUE ITS COMMITMENT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY ECUADOR AND PERU WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BI-NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THEIR COMMON BORDER, AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE AGREEMENTS IN BRASILIA IN 1998. THESE PROJECTS AIM AT MEETING THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE POPULATIONS OF THE REGION, THROUGH SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. HOWEVER, BOTH ECUADOR AND PERU REQUIRE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRIES THAT COMMITTED THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE POST-CONFLICT ERA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS FACED BY OUR COUNTRIES WE MUST ADD THE PERSISTENT OBSTACLES WHICH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IMPOSE ON THE COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE OF OUR EXPORTABLE PRODUCTS, AS WELL AS THE HUGE SUBSIDIES THEY GRANT TO THEIR OWN PRODUCTS; ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL ONES, WHICH SERIOUSLY LIMIT NORMAL COMPETITION AMONG COUNTRIES, INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO MORTGAGE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLES.

DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED FLOWS OF MIGRANTS TOWARDS INDUSTRIALIZED CENTERS IN SEARCH FOR JOBS, WHICH NO LONGER

EXIST IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. THIS EXODUS HAS ONLY FOUND IN SOME COUNTRIES RESTRICTIVE AND UNFAIR POLICIES, BASED ON XENOPHOBIC CONCEPTS THAT, INSTEAD OF SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE EXISTING PROBLEM AND TO ITS ROOT CAUSES, MAKE IT EVEN WORSE.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IS A PROBLEM THAT HAS BECOME MORE SEVERE DURING THE LAST DECADE. EACH YEAR, MORE COUNTRIES ARE AFFECTED BY MIGRATION MOVEMENTS THAT DEMAND A GROWING ATTENTION IN THE SPHERE OF POLITICAL DECISIONS.

MIGRATION RESPONDS TO THE ASPIRATION OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS OF FINDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTAIN BETTER EXISTENCE CONDITIONS AND GREATER PROSPECTS FOR THEIR ECONOMIC NEEDS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MIGRATION CONTRIBUTES TO PROMOTING EXCHANGES AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG DIFFERENT NATIONS, THAT IT STRENGTHENS DIALOGUE; AND THAT IT ENHANCES CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC WEALTH.

THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY CANNOT BE CONCEIVED WITHOUT THE CONSTANT PHENOMENON OF MIGRATION. IT IS EVIDENT, THEN, THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE MIGRATION MOVEMENTS HAVE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIMENSIONS, FOR SENDING AND FOR RECEIVING COUNTRIES AS WELL, AND IN THIS CONTEXT, IN THIS CURRENT ERA OF MARKET GLOBALIZATION, EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON THE LIBERALIZATION OF THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES, VIA THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

ECUADOR IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO COOPERATE IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THIS HUGE PROBLEM, THROUGH A STRICT CONTROL OF THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION OF PERSONS, AS WELL AS VIA THE EXECUTION OF UNIVERSAL AGREEMENTS THAT FAVOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN BEINGS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, TO THIS END WE REQUIRE ACTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN MIGRANT SENDING AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISMS.

MY COUNTRY HAS TRADITIONALLY MAINTAINED A POLICY OF PROMOTION, RESPECT, AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, AND FOR THIS REASON, IN THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, I MAKE AN APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND ALL SECTORS OF CIVIL SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD THAT WELCOME MIGRANT WORKERS, TO AIM THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THIS VULNERABLE SECTOR OF SOCIETY, WITHIN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY PERSPECTIVE, AND CONSIDERING THE HIGHLY POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE ASPECTS OF MIGRATION.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

THE TERRITORY OF ECUADOR IS HOME TO TWELVE NATIONALITIES AND MORE THAN SEVENTEEN ETHNIC GROUPS. THIS DIVERSITY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH DEFINES ECUADOR AS A SOCIAL STATE OF LAW, WHICH PROMOTES THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WELL-BEING. THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER OF THE ECUADORIAN STATE LAYS DOWN A LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT PROMOTES THE PARTICIPATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES AND GUARANTEES THE EXERCISE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THESE GROUPS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES.

THE CONSTITUTION EXPLICITLY INCORPORATES THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT 169 OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONCERNING INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLES. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ECUADORIAN STATE RECOGNIZES AND GUARANTEES THE RESPECT OF THE HUMAN AND COLLECTIVE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS TO MAINTAIN, DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THEIR IDENTITY AND THEIR SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC TRADITIONS; TO CONSERVE THE INALIENABLE OWNERSHIP OF COMMUNAL LANDS, AND TO MAINTAIN ANCESTRAL POSSESSION THEREOF.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

THE GOVERNMENT OF MY COUNTRY CANNOT FAIL TO MENTION THAT INEQUALITY IS AND CONTINUES TO BE THE GREATEST IMPEDIMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE DISPARITY OF WEALTH AND INCOME CURRENTLY EVIDENT WITHIN AND AMONG MANY COUNTRIES IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IN ORDER TO PREVENT THIS INEQUALITY, WE NEED TO ADOPT EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL MEASURES AIMED AT EFFECTIVELY REDUCING POVERTY, WHICH IN ITSELF CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, HARMS THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.

IN THIS SENSE, IT HAS BECOME IMPERATIVE FOR THE POSTULATES OF INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS THAT HAVE ADDRESSED THE ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT AND ERADICATION OF POVERTY TO BE ACCOMPLISHED VIA INTERNAL PLANS AND PROGRAMS BASED ON STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR SUPPORTS THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH ARE EMBODIED IN THREE KEY ASPECTS:

- REDUCTION OF POVERTY;
- POLITICAL GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY;

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, VIA THE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

THIS COMMITMENT HAS LED ECUADOR TO BE CHOSEN AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE MODELS, WITH THE GOAL OF OPTIMIZING THE ASSISTANCE AND THE QUALITY OF THE COUNTRY'S RESPONSE.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE THE VOICE OF MY COUNTRY BE HEARD WITH RESPECT TO TERRORISM.

THIS PHENOMENON HAS ENDANGERED THE BALANCE, THE PEACE, THE CONCORD, AND THE SECURITY OF THE ENTIRE PLANET, AS WELL AS ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL FABRIC, ITS FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE, AND STATE SECURITY CONCESSIONS.

I WISH TO REITERATE THE FULLEST AND UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR TO ALL INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS FORMULATED TO FIGHT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AND CHARACTERISTICS, BUT ALWAYS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE ABSOLUTE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

I MUST STRESS THAT HUNGER, POOR HEALTH, POVERTY, HUGE ECONOMIC DISPARITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CORRUPTION, THE TREATMENT OF DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS BY NON-PEACEFUL MEANS, AND THE OVERWHELMING BURDEN OF THE FOREIGN DEBT ARE THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTABILITY AND INSECURITY; THEY UNDERMINE GOVERNANCE AND ARE FACTORS THAT DESTABILIZE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONALITY.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST BE FULLY AWARE THAT THESE HARSH REALITIES FACED EVERYDAY BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALSO REPRESENT A THREAT TO WORLD SECURITY. IN CONSEQUENCE, THEY MUST LAUNCH AT THE SAME TIME A FRONTAL COMBAT AGAINST TERRORISM, IN A BROAD AND CONCERTED WORLD STRATEGY TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF A LARGE PART OF THE MARGINALIZED WORLD POPULATION, AND ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AND TOLERANCE, BOTH BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE STATES.

TRUE TO ITS CONVICTIONS AND PRINCIPLES, AS WELL AS TO ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR HAS DEPLOYED ITS BEST EFFORTS TOWARDS THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM; PARTICULARLY OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1373, FOR WHICH IT HAS DESIGNED A BROAD STRATEGY THAT INCLUDES LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, LAW

ENFORCEMENT, AND OTHER MEASURES; AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS ALSO ADOPTING MEASURES AND EXERCISING THE REQUIRED CONTROL WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSOLIDATED LIST, PREPARED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER RESOLUTION 1267.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEEDS TO MAKE THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS A WORLD POLICY OBJECTIVE. THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, OF SOCIETY AND OF INDIVIDUALS MUST CONSIDER THE THREATS TO THEIR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES: SOVEREIGNTY, IDENTITY AND SURVIVAL, AND ON THAT BASIS, TO ESTABLISH THE DIMENSIONS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY ACTION IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD.

ECUADOR BELIEVES THAT UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND VIABLE WAY TO KEEP THE PEACE, PREVENT CONFLICTS, AND FACILITATE THE TRANSITION TOWARDS THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY.

IN VIEW OF ITS PROFOUND PACIFIST VOCATION, MY COUNTRY FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT PEACE BUILDING MUST BE A COMMITMENT OF ALL NATIONS, AND FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR HAS DECIDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION OF ECUADOR IN THESE OPERATIONS THROUGH THE CONTRIBUTION OF ENGINEERS AND EQUIPMENT, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BEGIN OPERATING BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY, TACTICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF THE ECUADORIAN ARMED FORCES WILL ALLOW THEM TO ADEQUATELY FACE THE CHALLENGES REPRESENTED BY THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, PRESERVING THEIR ESSENCE IN THEIR ROLE AS PEACE-BUILDERS, MORE THAN AS INSTRUMENTS OF WAR.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

ECUADOR, AS FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ACCORDS ITS RESOLUTE SUPPORT TO THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, AS IT CONSTITUTES THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR THE FULL VALIDITY OF THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES THAT LED TO ITS CREATION AND WHICH ARE ENSHRINED IN ITS CHARTER. IN CONSEQUENCE, ECUADOR FULLY SUPPORTS THE CURRENT PROCESS OF REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS, PARTICULARLY OF ITS MAIN ORGANS, SUCH AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONVINCED THAT THUS WE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION IN THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS MISSION.

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS ONE OF THE MEASURES THAT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND THE

GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR SUPPORTS IT, WITH THE GOAL OF REACHING A REGIONAL BALANCE IN THIS ORGAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS EXPANSION, NECESSARILY BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY, EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, AND LEGAL EQUALITY OF ALL STATES, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES THAT CORRESPOND TO THE PREVAILING REALITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

MISTER PRESIDENT:

MY COUNTRY WISHES TO HIGHLIGHT THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, JOSE LUIS ZAPATERO, IN THIS FORUM. HIS WORDS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE CAUSE OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS AND HIS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF THE DEBT AND OF INEQUALITIES, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN AMERICA. ECUADOR WELCOMES THE WILL EXPRESSED BY THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, AS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS PURPOSE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELFARE OF THE POPULATION.

FINALLY, DEMOCRACY AND THE RESPECT OF GOVERNMENTS LEGITIMATELY ESTABLISHED THROUGH POPULAR VOTE ARE THE GREATEST TRIUMPHS OF LATIN AMERICA IN RECENT DECADES; IN THIS SENSE, NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO REVISE THIS BASIC PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY, LEST WE RUN THE RISK OF SERIOUSLY THREATENING THE SYSTEM OF NORMAL COEXISTENCE IN THESE NATIONS.

TO CONCLUDE, MISTER PRESIDENT, ALLOW ME TO URGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THE PRECIOUS IDEALS OF HUMAN BEINGS THAT INSPIRE THIS ORGANIZATION, SET FORTH IN THE PREAMBLE OF ITS CHARTER, WHICH ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL MANDATES FOR ITS MEMBERS AND DIFFERENT ORGANS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH