



MISION PERMANENTE DE BOLIVIA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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INTERVENCIÓN

DE

S.E. EDUARDO RODRÍGUEZ VELZÉ
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DE BOLIVIA

60° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE
LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

DEBATE GENERAL

NUEVA YORK, 18 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2005

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. EDUARDO RODRÍGUEZ VELZÉ
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

60th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL DEBATE

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

60TH ORDINARY PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze

Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia

Mr. President of the General Assembly

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations

Messrs. Heads of Delegations,

Messrs Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to greet this Assembly's President Mr. Jan Eliasson, and wish to congratulate him on his election which contributes to the success of these debates.

I am also pleased to greet the Organisation's Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, whose efforts to preserve peace and to promote solidarity among the world's peoples are recognised and appreciated.

My country, Bolivia, located at the heart of South America has just overcome with sacrifice and deprivations a profound political crisis.

The maturity and democratic spirit of my country's people have given way to a period of transition guaranteeing institutional continuity and a process to legitimate the election of the country's authorities through universal vote, thus allowing a state of governance and ratifying the citizens' trust in the right to elect their government and the parliamentary representatives of their preference.

During the electoral process Bolivia is presently undergoing, a new design for a nation pioneer in conquering liberty and independence will be defined. The coming December elections will bring about a new political original scenario, the process to carry out a constituent assembly and the people's decision to put into practice regional autonomies which will end up with the establishment of a new social contract leading to the construction of a more organized country, always in democracy and without exclusions as the millennium goals demand.

A notorious Colombian citizen advised us that *"only with a new look to the past we may create the possibility of another future, and only with a creative look over our world we may catch a glimpse of the new type of order we ought to build."*

This vision is shared by the peoples of Latin America, and by Bolivians, of course. Since long ago we have been united in an effort to solve our controversies by encouraging common actions so that countries in dispute may look for and negotiate peaceful solutions for their differences.

It is also true that in this America with profound democratic roots and brotherhood and solidarity links among their peoples, there are still unsolved situations as Bolivia's landlocked situation. At the onset of this Twenty First Century, we Bolivians and our neighbours ought to be capable of creating spaces for an open dialogue without prejudices, thus opening ways of solution with a look to the future, and an awareness of a reality which does not admit any more positions anchored in the past.

We believe it is essential to give way to negotiations which may look for, respond, and evaluate reciprocal interests to encourage a final solution toward Bolivia's sovereign return to the Pacific coast. To create trustful scenarios for negotiation and agreement for this purpose becomes unavoidable.

Latin America is a region of this planet where to dream about freedom, hope in progress, and integration of its peoples demand permanent renovation and creativity. I am convinced that we will persist on this unavoidable task of attaining the millennium development goals established for the year 2015, and the subsequent indicators to measure social progress, even though in the case of Bolivia these may confront difficulties which call our attention toward policies to meet inequality and exclusion, violent confrontations, intolerance, unfair land distribution, unemployment, extreme poverty, and malnutrition.

The Bolivian people wholly share the need to establish the basis to guarantee progress with equity. This means to admit that a universal effort is required to eliminate poverty.

Even though significant advances have been attained in indicators such as sustainability and institutional improvement as well as economic stability, the government of Bolivia expresses its concern over fixed deadlines, and exhorts the international community of nations to consider better terms and conditions.

Harmony between peoples may not be wholly achieved in a world where security is tested every day with terrorist threats against innocent individuals, and against the systems selected by peoples who hold the certainty that the only way to safeguard mutual respect and harmony in a society is the exercise of democracy.

Bolivia condemns terrorism and says present in the fight against this evil which is afflicting humanity.

Our organization consubstantial with civilized convivial life among peoples of the earth has completed sixty years of functioning. Forty-five were the member-states who found the organization, we are now 191 members backing and putting into practice the principles orienting us as a planetary community.

Therefore, a world without the United Nations organisation which unites and orients us toward a common destiny from a reality whose tribulations are poverty, terrorism, and violence, may not be conceived neither in theory nor in practice.

Bolivia recognizes that throughout the Organization's sixty years of institutional life, it has received valuable cooperation from same. It is true there are problems shared by many countries and because of this we know that international cooperation may not any more be seen as a solidarity act only. Because solidarity should be a pillar of peace, since one of the threats the organisation is confronting is precisely the growing inequality which translates in the marginality where large sectors of our societies are confined to and which may also constitute the uneasiness frequently ending up in dangerous social tensions.

This does not only means to achieve what is apparently called economic stability but rather to significantly raise wellbeing standards, not only because of an elemental recognition of man's rights but for the need to consolidate spaces of equity and justice.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Messrs Delegates,

Bolivia reaffirms its adherence to the United Nations principles, its vocation for peace, and its defence of democratic institutions.

We believe the United Nations has consolidated itself *as* the supreme instance in the universal relationship between countries and individuals, and we also believe that it will be advisable to adequate and reform its institutions and entities so they may fulfil the goals set forth.

The interrelation between development, security, and human rights within the framework of democratic values is an expression of today's interdependent world, and of a multilateralism which reaffirms the UN's

leading role, as well as the fact that we will resolutely persist to "promote social progress and to improve life standards within a more ample concept of freedom."

In this context, it represents for Bolivia an encouragement to social integration and pacific national convivial life the commitment assumed by the recent High-Level World Forum to adopt in the near future a United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights.

Bolivia is truly dedicated to the hopeful expectation of attaining peace and solidarity for the wellbeing of all, to protect the rule of law, and to secure justice and liberty; in other words, the principle guiding us is that of democracy as a system always subject to perfection and also as a practice of life.

Many thanks,

New York, September 18, 2005