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THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE PLENARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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I

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I wish you the greatest success during your term.

II

The Bolivarian Revolution plans to contribute to the rebuilding of the structure and agenda of the United Nations, which reflects the existing and unjust power relationships in the world.

This forum - as it is today - helps to reproduce those unjust relations inherited from the Second World War, becoming more exclusive and authoritarian as neoliberal globalization advances.

The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, said on September 15, 2005, during his speech at the General Debate at the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

"The United Nations has exhausted its model, and it is not simply a matter of proceeding with reform, the twenty-first century demands deep changes that are only possible with a rebuilding of this organization."

There are two poignant examples that show this unfair and irrational world power architecture.

For the last fifty years, the overwhelming majority of countries in the world demand before the United Nations General Assembly for a cease to the economic and commercial blockade imposed upon the heroic Cuban people, however, what has this organization done so that the U.S. government abides by the will of the General Assembly? The answer is well known: Nothing.

Dozens of resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the Question of Palestinian, but the Israeli military and political elite refuses to comply. The Occupying Power acts with total impunity, with the complicity of its main ally.

What has the Security Council done in order for the occupying power to respect the principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, in particular the four Geneva Conventions of 1949? The answer is well known: Nothing.

III

The rebuilding of the United Nations involves strengthening the General Assembly in the field of international peace and security.

We impugn that a few countries impose their conditions in these areas, while the opinion of the majority is not taken into account.

A strategy to weaken the General Assembly and exclude it from the most relevant world decisions, is being implemented in the United Nations; while the Security Council progressively increases its power and influence on the UN agenda, and takes over subjects beyond the purview conferred to it by the Charter of the Organization.

The Secretary-General, according to the Charter of the United Nations is an "administrative officer of the organization", whose responsibility, in accordance with the Charter, must respond to the interests of all Member States and not the policies of a few powers that seek to guide the global agenda.

IV

For almost 20 years we have been discussing the reform of the Security Council and the strengthening of the General Assembly, but so far, almost nothing has been achieved.

The call by President Chávez to rebuild the UN remains valid.

In this way, Venezuela proposes to suspend the right of veto enjoyed by only five members of the United Nations. This remnant of the Second World War is incompatible with the principle of sovereign equality of States.

Venezuela also proposes an increase of the membership of the Security Council in its Permanent and Non-Permanent categories. Why are developing countries of the right to partake in this forum?

Venezuela calls upon all States to propose candidates for the General Secretariat of the UN, with the aim of democratizing the election of this senior official.

Venezuela believes that resolution 11 (1) from January 1946, regarding the terms of election of the Secretary General in no way restricts the ability of Member States that comprise the General Assembly to discuss and vote for its election.

In line with democratic principles and transparency, Member States must participate in both the nomination and in the appointment of this senior official. Thus, States would be free to choose among several alternatives.

The rebuilding of the United Nations also demands that the responsibilities in matters of international peace and security be fully exercised by the General Assembly as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

V

The climate change negotiations have stalled. Developed countries reject international commitments already in full force.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hopes that the next Summit on Climate Change to be held in Cancun at the end of this year, a legally binding agreement that is ambitious in its content, respecting the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol is reached.

Venezuela fights for the edification of a new development model based on climate, environmental, social and gender justice that respects human rights and those of nature.

VI

Developing countries and most the vulnerable sectors of developed countries suffer the impact of the economic and financial crisis of capitalism. It is therefore necessary to consider the transformation of this inhumane model that with its new crisis has generated more hunger, poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The crisis of capitalism has not ended; it has a structural character that reproduces itself ad infinitum. Privileged groups, the financial economy, speculators, monopolies and oligopolies and the Bretton Woods institutions, will continue to try to have the developing countries and the poor and the most vulnerable in the world, pay for the consequences of the crisis.

Neoliberal policies, which are applied as a result of the new financial and economic crisis of capitalism, propose totalitarianism of the financial markets deepening the gap between rich and poor within those countries, and widening inequalities between the North and the South.

Faced with this crisis, developing countries should strengthen South- South cooperation and create alternative and sovereign mechanisms to avoid for the credit monopoly maintained by the Bretton Woods institutions.

In this same path, Venezuela aims to create and strengthen regional financial institutions such as Bank of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA) and the Bank of the South. We welcome the initiatives in this direction that are being undertaken in Africa and Asia.

South-South cooperation is a top priority for Venezuela. In Latin America and the Caribbean there are already successful experiences such as PETROCARIBE, which fosters solidarity in the cooperation in energy matters, and the ALBA, which is producing successful results in the overcoming of poverty and inequality.

These are novel forms of cooperation based on solidarity that contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the face of attempts to erode the sovereignty of countries and the offensive of neo-liberalism, the Bolivarian government calls for the re-launching of the G77 and China, and the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries (NAM), so that developing countries can defend – with greater strength- the interests of its peoples.

VII

We are grateful for the compliments sent to President Hugo Chávez Frías, by numerous governments, social and popular movements from around the world, on the occasion of the victory in the Venezuelan parliamentary elections of last September 26, 2010.

This victory is a clear testimony of the majority support of the people for the humanistic policies promoted by the Bolivarian Government.

This electoral victory will also enable our government to strengthen solidarity with developing countries.

Defenders of peace, justice, freedom and solidarity in the world, you may continue to relay on the support of the Bolivarian Revolution.