



MÉXICO

Intervención pronunciada por

**S.E. Sr. Enrique Peña Nieto
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos**

**DEBATE DE ALTO NIVEL
DEL 69° PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA
GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS**

Nueva York, 24 Septiembre 2014

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Statement delivered by

**H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto
President of Mexico**

**HIGH LEVEL DEBATE
OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNITED NATIONS**

Nueva York, 24 September 2014

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**HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. SAM KUTESA,
PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY;**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. BAN KI-MOON,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS;**

**HIS EXCELLENCIES AND HER EXCELLENCIES
CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;**

DELEGATES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As President of Mexico, it is a high honor to participate for the first time in the General Assembly, the highest symbol of unity among nations.

Mexico reiterates its historic commitment with this universal forum of dialogue, understanding and cooperation.

Today's world could not be conceived without the United Nations. Its positive influence is present in all realms of our lives.

The UN leads international efforts to combat hunger, pandemics and climate change.

This Organization protects our children; preserves world heritage and promotes the empowerment and advancement of women around the world.

The United Nations promotes trade and global communications as well as the protection of Human Rights and the maintenance of peace.

Thanks to the United Nations, our world enjoys today greater freedom, is more democratic and more developed.

While the UN contributions to the well-being of millions of people are indeed evident, it seems futile to deny the plethora of challenges that every country of this planet is currently facing.

From the global economy –which has yet to recover its dynamism–; to regional conflicts that have ended in deaths and forced migration flows, to climate change triggering natural disasters, it is clear that the world requires a more effective multilateral action.

In a world full of phenomena that transcends borders, international cooperation is more pressing than ever and the sum of global efforts can only emerge in this common house: The United Nations.

Today, our planet demands a more effective, efficient, transparent and representative United Nations; a UN where all societies of the world have greater participation. The UN must then, dare to change... in order to improve.

In Mexico, we firmly believe that the UN has all the powers to be more daring and to renovate itself.

Regarding institutional change, we need a Security Council that evolves and that truly represents the new world order. It is of the utmost importance to reform the Security Council in order to strengthen its transparency, accountability and response capacity.

We believe that the Security Council should be enlarged by increasing the number of non-permanent members, creating long-term seats with the possibility of immediate re-election based on a more equitable geographic representation.

The world needs a UN where the permanent members of the Security Council refrain themselves from using its veto power in cases of grave violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Regarding international peace and security, the United Nations must prevent arms trafficking, as well as the serious damages this phenomenon inflicts on our societies.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) provides the necessary tools to tackle this growing challenge. However, it is vital that all nations sign the Treaty, but more importantly, that they all ratify it.

The First Conference of the State Parties of the ATT will be held in Mexico, next year. It will be a great opportunity for all nations to work together to avoid arms from hurting children or vulnerable populations around the world.

We therefore should also strengthen the United Nations so it can effectively combat terrorism, which lacerates societies around the world.

Additionally, we need the UN to overhaul its efforts in favor of nuclear disarmament. We must prevent that more countries or non-state actors have greater destruction capacity, and we must also demand that those already possessing nuclear weapons, reduce and eliminate them.

If we want a safer world, we should guarantee that no one uses, or threatens to use, nuclear power since it will effectively jeopardize the survival of humankind itself.

On the development front, and now that the date to finally define the Sustainable Development Goals is upon us, we need the United Nations to embrace a more comprehensive approach regarding the well-being of peoples.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda should acknowledge that poverty cannot be determined solely by insufficient income, but also by taking into account other basic needs that trump both, personal as well as collective development.

We should also bear in mind that one of the guiding principles of this Agenda, should be Economic and Social Inclusion.

Mr. President: Mexico believes that the United Nations needs to update its commitment with the respect and promotion of the rights of girls, boys and teenagers, by addressing new challenges threatening their well-being.

It is time to launch a joint global action to address psychological and physical bullying while strengthening basic values among our children and youth.

If we want a future where the spirit of understanding, friendship among peoples and universal peace guide our world, we need to act now with more determination so that our children and our youth can live free of hardship.

In short, to be able to face the challenges of the 21st century, we need a new institutional design for the United Nations, with a renewed commitment towards peace and security, and foremost with a Development Agenda that is comprehensive and inclusive.

Change is never easy, and especially when it requires transformation from the core and is contingent on the cooperation of multiple actors, each with its own priorities and interests.

In the specific case of the UN, multiple voices acknowledge the need for change; but at the same time, they believe it to be an impossible task because no one is willing to yield.

Mexico experienced a similar situation. There were those who agreed on the urgency of promoting structural changes domestically, but they also warned that it would not be possible to fulfill them.

Those voices upheld that political groups and the government would not be able to reach agreements in order to transform our nation.

Nonetheless, Mexico demonstrated that it is possible to reach agreements in the midst of plurality. When there is will for constructive dialogue, diversity can be a source of strength.

In the case of Mexico, the foundation for constructive dialogue lied in the "Pact for Mexico", which allowed for an unprecedented agreement where all political forces committed to advance a comprehensive agenda for reforms in a wide range of national issues.

Building upon this groundbreaking political agreement, Mexicans dared to improve the quality of education, to make the job market more flexible, and to combat those who monopolize and engage in anti-competitive practices.

We also dared to modernize the telecommunications sector, to increase the opportunities for credit and to reduce its cost, to strengthen public finances, and to give way to a new model for energy development for our country.

In Mexico, we exchanged views and we agreed on the renewal of our political and electoral institutions, as well as that of our judiciary and accountability systems.

We Mexicans decided to transform ourselves.

These profound changes were decades-long overdue, mainly because no political party has held a majority in Congress during the last years.

Nevertheless, dialogue and consensus were vital to achieve these changes in just 20 months.

What was the difference that allowed change in Mexico? It was the will of an entire nation that dared to change.

Mexico acted decisively and wisely. My country dared to transform itself and to set itself in motion. Based on our own experience, I am convinced that the United Nations can also change.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Almost 70 years after its creation, the United Nations must evolve *in tandem* with the international scene.

I know it will not be easy to build consensus to transform the UN because inertias must be broken and paradigms must be changed. But I also know that the talent, vision, and wisdom needed to achieve it, is here.

It is time to build a new United Nations for a new century.

This will require that all countries have the will to listen, discuss, tolerate, and the will to yield. At the end of this process, the world will have a more efficient United Nations, one that is able to work successfully in favor of peace and development.

My country is willing to play an active role in this transformation and it is determined to evolve with the United Nations.

Mexico supports and values Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), an instrument of the United Nations to assist countries worldwide to end conflicts and to create the conditions for sustainable peace by providing humanitarian aid, security and post-conflict reconstruction.

This is why Mexico has taken the decision to participate in UN Peacekeeping Operations providing humanitarian work to benefit civilian populations.

Our participation will respond to a clear mandate from the Security Council, and will do so in accordance to the foreign policy principles enshrined in our Constitution.

With this determination and as a responsible actor, Mexico takes a historic step to reiterate its commitment with the United Nations.

Next year, this Organization will commemorate its 70th anniversary. It will offer us the opportunity to make our plurality both an asset and a strength to drive change.

With the participation of us all, the drive and tenacity of all members States, the United Nations can transform itself to further benefit the whole of humanity.

Thank you.