



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 November 2018

Excellency,

I am pleased to inform you that my first official trip as President of the United Nations General Assembly to Geneva and the Vatican City concluded successfully.

I was in Geneva from 22-26 October. I spoke at the opening ceremony of the World Investment Forum 2018 devoted to the Sustainable Goals and the 2030 Agenda, and at the Global Leaders Investment Summit. The latter of which included the theme: 'Investment in a new Era of Industrialization'. This was attended by more than two thousand delegates and featured speakers from the political, diplomatic and private sector communities. My messages were centered on the need for enhanced cooperation to address the global problems that affect the peoples of the world; the contribution of the private sector to sustainable development; and the need to provide young people with decent work opportunities. I also emphasized the fact that empowering women is key to economic development.

While in Geneva, I also had the opportunity to join and address celebrations for UN Day. I used this opportunity to reiterate the need for a strong UN that is efficient, transparent, credible and capable of delivering on the needs of people everywhere.

I also met with representatives of United Nations offices in order to outline the priorities for the year ahead and discuss with them opportunities to translate plans into action. I held bilateral discussions with Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and the heads of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the International Labour Organization (ILO); and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). I also had working meetings with H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc, President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, President of the Human Rights Council in 2019 and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations. I also met with female Ambassadors, who are part of the International Gender Champions initiative (IGC). We stressed the importance of working together to improve gender equality in the UN work. Finally, I also held a press conference and briefed Member States and representatives of International Organizations on my priorities for the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

From Geneva, I continued to Vatican City, where I participated in the 10th Meeting of the 'Ethics in Action Initiative', the theme of which was: *The Future of Work*. Through my remarks I emphasized the role of the United Nations in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 8, and I highlighted that decent work offers an opportunity to ensure equality and social justice for all people.

I had the honor to be received by His Holiness Pope Francis. He expressed his support to multilateralism and the role of the UN. We discussed issues of common interest such as climate change, plastic pollution, migration, youth and pathway to decent work. I also met with Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), we agreed to work together on the achievement of SD2 to end hunger and malnutrition.

Excellencies, my trip to Geneva and the Vatican City was an opportunity to address UN colleagues outside of New York and to listen to their thoughts, suggestions and ideas. Likewise, I feel that this will contribute to the achievement of the mandates and priorities of the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'MFEspinosa' in a stylized, cursive script.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés