

**REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR**



PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR,  
DR. ALFREDO PALACIO,  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
LX SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 18 SEPTEMBER 2005

\*Check against delivery

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen

The people of Ecuador wish to express their deepest sentiments and fraternal solidarity to the South East Asia Nations affected by the tsunami, *as* well as to all our brethren that live in the southern United States, so severely affected by hurricane Katrina.

Faced with the danger of natural disasters, Ecuador is committed to the execution of the Hyogo Action Plan, and with the International Center for Investigation of the El Niño Effect (CIFEN), that has its venue in Guayaquil.

Mr. President,

Today, the nations of the globe have come together to celebrate 60 years of human hope, 60 years of the proclamation of the fundamental charter of the Organization, that represents every man, every woman and every human being. It is 60 years ago since we inaugurated the house, the essential objectives for human coexistence, peace and the International Rule of Law.

After six decades, we can rejoice with old Neruda, who continues to live, along with Stravinsky, with Garcia Marquez and with Mother Theresa

Let us celebrate, but also let us take inventory of the dream yet to be fulfilled. Sleeplessly, we face threats and challenges that affect the survival of our specie. Upon concluding the second millennium — in a different manner of the first — our world was not threatened by the terror filled visions of Apocalypse, of those seven trumpets that transformed a third of the world into blood, darkness, smoke and locusts.

However, our second millennium faces the reality of growing poverty in two thirds of the planet. Water is becoming scarce, holes deplete the ozone layer and along with biodiversity, the Amazon is being destroyed. Entire Nations are condemned to wander *as* disinherited immigrants, mortal illnesses hover over humanity, and terrorism lurks.

I come from the middle of the world, with a voice and faith in the renewal of the dream. Ecuador is a small nation in South America that shares the identity of almost 400 million human beings, who live in 8 million square kilometers. We own over one fourth of the sweet water of the world, immense energy, mineral and food resources, we boast the greatest tropical rain forest of the world, and colossal mountains, deserts and prairies. Yet, it is the kingdom of social injustice.

The world order that governs us, is not what we want. It is unjust, inefficient and inhuman. Therefore, we must bring into action factors that had not been dreamt of in the middle of the XX Century and have economy, international law and biology constitute the fundamental triangle from which the future of the human being must be projected.

I set forth the idea of building of a new world order based upon this trilogy.

## International Law

Ecuador reaffirms its commitment to the San Francisco Charter and with the principles of non-intervention and the free determination of peoples, with the peaceful resolution of controversies, and rejects all forms of colonialism, of discrimination or segregation.

Pursuant with these principles, my country believes in the need of strengthening the Organization, of transforming and democratizing it.

The United Nations Organization must develop new mechanisms to protect the survival of the specie and of all forms of life.

## Economy

Our present economy must suppress marginality and the unequal nature of opportunities, both amongst nations as well as individuals. Therein lies the conflict. In 1945, the imperious need of establishing policies to promote a just and progressive distribution of surpluses, was set forth. Nevertheless, after 60 years, there is an increase in regressive distribution and the existence of gaps in all orders, basically produced by the great tragedy represented by the accumulation of a foreign debt that constitutes a heavy burden for developing nations.

The weight of the debt has become a pauperization factor for our peoples, it has suppressed productive development and annuls the aspiration that every individual has to accede to food, health, shelter, safety and education.

The ethical mandate of our time, demands a change in the collective conscience of social well-being. Mid income countries that are deeply indebted, must organize their efforts to reach joint agreements with the world's creditors.

## Biology

The incorporation of biology into the new international order obligates the United Nations to travel from homo-centrism to bio-centrism.

The presence of this new factor — the biologic factor-, brings with it the need of raising the level of ethics and international law to the highest degree of respect towards biodiversity and the preservation of all forms of life.

Ecuador awards special importance to this issue, and is therefore concerned with the controversial spraying of glyphosate as a herbicide, to eliminate illegal crops in the border between Colombia and Ecuador,

Studies relative to its use suffer from technical and methodological deficiencies. Therefore,

Ecuador requests that the United Nations System promote an integral and faithful study to determine the real impact of such sprayings.

A quick review of the National Library of Medicine, reveals a variety of important studies, performed under three different designs.

**First: *Experimental Studies:*** Increase in sister chromatides, chromosome aberrations, oxidative stress indicators, retardation of genetic transcription and differences in these results according to commercial formulation. Teratogenic effects and skeletal retardation were found in Brazil. The limitation of these studies resides in the fact that these are in *Vitro* or mammal studies, in which the effect of the herbicide was evaluated at a single point in time.'

**Second: *Case Reports:*** Chemical burns on skin, chemical pneumonitis, Parkinson type symptoms and innumerable reports of suicide attempts with this herbicide.'

**Third: *Observational Studies:*** Risk of non-Hodgkin Lymphoma <sup>3</sup>

The only prospective study is the Agricultural Health Study ° published in the Environmental Health Perspectives Magazine. It failed to find a significant increase in cancer risk in the persons applying glyphosate, but showed an increase in the trend for multiple myeloma

Limitations of this prospective study are:

- a) Too short a period.
- b) Selected sample: only adult men. It was not possible to evaluate the fetal effect.
- c) Participants were persons that used manual applicators with protective equipment.
- d) Does not evaluate that population exposed to herbicide topical action or inhalation.

Ecuador considers indispensable to apply the precautionary principle, recognized in several international agreements and other instruments, particularly the Rio Declaration on Development and the Environment. Consequently, Ecuador has asked our neighboring Government of Colombia to suspend air-spraying activities in a 10 kilometer strip north of our border.

Mr. President:

As I stated in my presentation during the High Level Session, my country considers that the Millennium Development Goals constitute the precise and efficient tool for this century, to initiate the path towards a more just humankind. I am firmly convinced that the ethical regulation that will preserve the biological inheritance of the planet, constitutes the greatest goal for this third millennium.

- 1) Taken from Bolognesi et al, 1977, Lid el al 1998,
- 2) Amerio et al 2004, Ishiguro e all 2004
- 3) De Rooss e all 2003, Harden and Erickson et all 1999, Harden et all 2002, McDuffy a al 2001.
- 4) De Rooss al 2005

With conviction and decision, my country adopted a date for its future: the year 2015.

Globalization processes determine urgent needs for the new century. One is especially poignant, one that brings back the pain of the exodus of peoples.

Today, the United Nations must take over the role of a new Moses. It must lead the people to their homeland, as well as provide the bread to calm the hunger of the condemned of this World. Over 175 million human beings have been forced to leave their land in search of better days. .

Today, an immigrant, receives a treatment inferior to that afforded to capitals or merchandise, for which we hasten to provide freedom of transit. The mere existence of this fact forces us to recognize that for the hungry of the Third World, there is not even the liberty, and less so the emblematic equality and fraternity brought forth two centuries ago by the French Revolution.

The link between the migrant issue and development is undeniable and must be treated in a transparent manner and with a responsible vision shared by all nations involved.

In the path of migration, we must overcome the police stigma against those without papers. It is necessary to regulate these matters, to administer the rights of immigrants as a fundamental human right, as a part of a population policy for all States.

Before this Forum, the Government of Ecuador requests that the immigration problem be treated under terms of equality for all immigrants, respecting all nationals of the world and, proposes that this problem be addressed at a High Level Dialogue on International Migration to be held in 2006.

On our part, aware of the need to have migration and its consequences treated in an integral and responsible manner, the Government of Ecuador, approved a law to reform the Criminal Code, which typifies the crimes of sexual exploitation of minors and trafficking of persons. In addition it has submitted before our National Congress a new proposal to punish all forms of trafficking in human beings.

Mister President

The International Decade of Indigenous Peoples, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, represents a valuable opportunity to become aware of the situation of our brothers, to respect their identity and find viable solutions to the problems that affect them.

The new world order biology demands the recognition of their rights as protagonists and fundamental actors in the social machinery.

In the Ecuador of the last decade, Indigenous peoples constitute an important expression in organization, politics and culture. This is recognized in our Constitution, and has been ratified in the ILO Agreement 169.

We are confident that in the XXI Century, ethnic characteristics will not determine differences. That it suffice to say man or woman, so that all human rights be duly recognized and exercised with equality.

Mr. President,

During the past years, Ecuador has faced a process of serious deterioration of its democratic institutions. In the face of this, my government is committed to the recovery of the Rule of Law, by means of a profound political reform, legitimized through a referendum of the Ecuadorian people.

My government has demonstrated its unwavering support to the re-establishment of the Judicial System and has ratified its commitment to the hit enforcement and total respect to human rights.

We are firmly fighting against the corruption that erodes democratic structures. Only 3 days ago, on September 15, my government deposited ratification instrument number thirty, of the International Convention against Corruption, which made it possible for it to come into force.

Mr. President,

The voice of my people, of the people of Ecuador, recreates a very deep clamor of Latin America.

We want to be a part of a greater nation, South America, of a human conglomerate that can have its voice heard and that potentially follows the path towards its development, graced with justice and greater solidarity, on behalf of the principles that here we have recalled.

Thank you.