



# MÉXICO

Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Enrique Berruga Filloy,  
' Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations,  
in the general debate of the  
60th General Assembly

New York, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

*(Check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

Throughout last year, we, as Member States of the United Nations, embarked upon a reform process without precedent in the history of our Organization. The international community has become fully aware of the need to transform the United Nations to better tackle the international threats and challenges of our times. Although significant progress was made, we have not yet achieved the expected goals.

The political and intellectual contributions put forth by the High-Level Panel; the Secretary-General's Report "In Larger Freedom"; the Sachs Report and the inputs provided by the Group of Friends of the United Nations Reform are, among others, important efforts that have guided our discussions aimed at defining the future of our Organization. Our task now is to take stock of the lessons learned; of the rights and wrongs, in order to make this 60<sup>th</sup> period the year of the U.N. reform.

The Outcome Document adopted by our Heads of State and Government during the Summit is a point of departure. It is not the final outcome yet. It should be seen as the architectural plan to lead us in the building of the new United Nations. It is thus crucial that we keep the reform momentum alive and try our best to bring about, as soon as possible, the changes highly demanded by the international community and by our governments.

Among the lessons learned, from Mexico's standpoint there are three key aspects that need to be taken into consideration during the works of this 60th General Assembly:

First: the reform of the system must be comprehensive. It will be very damaging, futile and insufficient if we decide to sacrifice the comprehensive approach by focusing all our efforts on just one aspect of the reform. A great deal of the frustration that stemmed from the Summit's outcome came out of the unlimited time and priority attention given to the reform of the Security Council. We cannot deny the importance of this issue; however we should not hold hostage the whole reform process to the exclusive discussion of one single item.

Throughout the long days and nights of discussion held prior to the Summit we all witnessed the interest and preoccupations of the international community on other issues such as human rights, development, the fight against terrorism, the environment, the social agenda and management reform. The fact that the United Nations needs, inevitably, to make headway in a simultaneous fashion on these priority issues, is much clearer today than it was two weeks ago.

Second: intergovernmental negotiations are the most effective method to advance the reform process. We call for a negotiation opened to all interested States, with agreed timelines for the adoption as well as for the implementation of the commitments reached.

All member States witnessed that in the last three weeks prior to the Summit, we made much more progress, at a faster pace, than during the long months we spent holding informal consultations and listening to each other's speeches. The Summit was the catalytic that triggered the rounds of serious and committed intergovernmental negotiations. It was until then when we were finally able to perceive with the required precision, the limits and the margins of flexibility of each Member State. Mr. President, in light of such experience, we must privilege negotiations as the most productive working method.

Third: in order to gain relevance and effectiveness, the U.N. institutional structures should adjust themselves to the real global problems and not the other way around. If we do not follow this logic, we might wind-up meeting the absurd that is, building institutions aimed at pleasing the high diplomatic circles but disappointing the societies who should be looking after in the first place.

The discussion on the new Human Rights Council is a case in point. Its composition and the number of its members have received far more attention than the mandates and tasks that the Council should carry out in order to promote human dignity. We must stop this trend.

Mr. President,

You will be chairing a very peculiar General Assembly. Fruitless efforts have been made in the past in order to find the right formula to revitalize the General Assembly, the world's most representational organ. Today, pushed by the winds of reform and the need to halt the U.N.'s sense of crisis, the General Assembly has an atypical momentum to steer the future path of our Organization. It is here where major agreements could be reached and where the States' commitments will be recorded. Mexico is confident that throughout your Presidency, the General Assembly will consolidate itself as the main political forum housing the world's decision-making process.

As stated by the President of Mexico in the Summit, we are at "the starting line, not on the finish line". Our task is incomplete and it is therefore urgent to establish a Peace-building Commission; to put into practice the concept of Responsibility to Protect; to establish a Human Rights Council that could make an immediate difference *vis-á-vis* the double standards and weaknesses that have taxed the reputation of the Human Rights Commission; to begin negotiations regarding the reform of the Security Council with the common purpose of establishing the best collective security system possible, and thus be prepared to face the major threats of today's world.

Development continues to be a priority among the concerns and aspirations of the global agenda. Mexico has carried out efforts of particular importance in this realm. The International Conference on Financing for Development held in the Mexican city of Monterrey became a watershed in addressing development. A partnership between rich and developing countries was forged for the first time ever, with the purpose to eradicate poverty according to specific defined financial targets and timetables. It is due to the latter, Mr. President, that we appreciate very dearly, the decision of those developed countries that have set out and announced timetables for reaching the long-standing commitment of devoting 0.7 as a percentage of the GNP as Official Development Assistance. We reiterate our call to the rest of the economic powers to advance in this direction. We urge the developing countries to present, as soon as possible, their national strategy to make sure they can access these resources. It is crucial that all parties fully comply with their commitments. We cannot allow ourselves to go backwards in this field.

Mr. President,

President Vicente Fox has asked me to put on record our disappointment with the fact that the Summit's Outcome Document does not include a section on disarmament and non-proliferation. In this sense, my Delegation will join forces with other interested Member States to re-insert this most sensitive issue in the United Nations agenda.

For Mexico, --which last April, had the honor to host the First Conference of Nuclear-Weapons Free Zones--, issues regarding disarmament and non-proliferation continue to be a top priority in our foreign policy agenda. It is due to this and taking into account the unsafe international scenario that we have witnessed in the past few weeks, that we consider it a pressing need to find a formula to end the paralysis experienced by all international fora dealing with this matter.

Likewise, Mexico attaches great importance to the agreements reached during the Summit to finalize a comprehensive Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We urge all Member States and Observers to continue negotiating so as to make sure this instrument is adopted by this General Assembly.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to make some brief remarks regarding the issue of Rule of Law provided for in the Outcome Document. The rule of law in international relations is a rational and preventive tool aimed at settling disputes. The legal activities of the United Nations constitute an ally of the Security Council while fulfilling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Based on the comprehensive reform being promoted by my country, we believe it is necessary that States reinforce their commitment to strengthening the International Court of Justice.

Mr. President,

Mexico will remain as a firm promoter of the reform of our Organization and of the idea of finding multilateral solutions to address the world's major problems. Through the Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform and during this key year in the life of our Organization, we will go on putting forth proposals and mechanisms to implement decisions. In this regard, I would like to echo President Fox's acknowledgement to his counterparts from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Spain and Sweden for their clever and constructive contribution to the reform process. The diversity of views that this Group gathers and its decision to focus on delivering concrete proposals to solve the U.N.'s as well as the world's problems, demonstrate that it is indeed feasible to reach agreement and translate them into action. We are confident that this spirit will be shared by the general membership of the United Nations, so we can seize this 60th session's opportunity to genuinely inaugurate the second phase in the life of our Organization.

Thank you very much.