



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by H.E.

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First Vice-president of Costa Rica

High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly
of the United Nations

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New York
Septiembre 16th, 2005

Mr. President:

Today, on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the United Nations, I am honored to reaffirm Costa Rica's unconditional commitment to the principles and purposes of this Organization. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as the International Community's main instrument to maintain peace. We reiterate our fullest confidence in this Organization's capacity to promote human rights and wellbeing for all peoples. We renew our commitment with general disarmament and with the efforts to promote sustainable development. For these reasons, we deem indispensable for the United Nations to play a leading role in the creation of a better world.

In the area of international peace and security, we affirm our faith in the Security Council as the only legitimate mechanism to confront the main threats to the peaceful relations among the nations. We reaffirm our commitment to Security Council reform with the view to make it more democratic, transparent and effective on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality, rotation, periodic elections and accountability. We favor an increase in the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council and we support a deep reform of its working methods. In order to increase the Council's legitimacy and efficiency, we have advocated for the elimination the right of veto in matters such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and massive violations of human rights. Regrettably, this initiative was not included in this Summit's outcome document. We believe this proposal of limiting the right of veto should be reconsidered in the coming months.

Costa Rica firmly supports all efforts to strengthen the international human rights mechanisms. We endorse fully the idea of transforming the Human Rights Commission into a Human Rights Council and, yet, we would have preferred for the outcome document to contain concrete provisions on the mandate and structure of the new Human Rights Council. In their absence, must devote the coming months to design this new institution. Furthermore, we endorse the idea of increasing substantially the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and we welcome the initiatives to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms established by treaties with the view to create, in due time, a unified system. In order to protect persons living with disabilities, we believe that it is necessary to conclude as soon as possible the convention of the rights of persons with disabilities.

We stress the importance of law and justice in international relations. For this reason, we reaffirm our faith in the International Court of Justice as the best mechanism for the peaceful solution of controversies. We would like, therefore, to urge all nations to accept, without conditions, the jurisdiction of the Court. Similarly, we call upon all States to support the work of the International Criminal Court as an indispensable instrument to prevent and punish the most serious crimes that offend the conscience of mankind. We

regret that the outcome document mentions neither the International Criminal Court nor the need to prevent impunity at the global level. We also regret the fact that the outcome document does not reaffirm the already existing commitments regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and small weapons.

We are convinced that the United Nations must take the leading role in the fight against international terrorism. Therefore, We would like to reiterate the proposal made last year by H.E. Able Pacheco de la Espriella, President of Costa Rica, to create a High Commissioner against Terrorism, as an independent, professional and permanent organ, located within the Secretariat, with the view to ensure greater coordination and better use of the resources available at the global level for the fight against terrorism. Furthermore, we support the early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism, preferably before the end of this year.

Regarding development, I wish to reiterate our call to fulfill the Millennium Goals. We urge, in particular, develop nations to fulfill their commitment of devoting the 0.7% of their Gross National Product (GNP) to development assistance and to eliminate all barriers and subsidies that have a negative impact on the exports of developing countries.

Similarly, we have to keep in mind that development must be sustainable from an environmental point of view and, in particular, the need to protect our natural resources. In this context, I would like to highlight the initiative lead by Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea of creating a "Rainforest Coalition" seeking to protect all forests and to ensure payment for the environmental services that they provide.

Regarding management, and with the view to ensure the unique legitimacy of this Organization, we consider indispensable to strengthen the Organization's monitoring and inspection mechanisms and we request the General Assembly to consider in depth the recommendations of the Volker report. It is necessary to face – with absolute transparency -the cases mismanagement and the allegations of corruption that have surfaced within the Organization in recent months.

Mr. President,

Today we have been called to reaffirm our faith in this Organization and in its capacity to create the necessary conditions for human development such as universal access to health, education, social security, housing, safe water, and job training. These topics must have the same priority in our agenda as the challenges of ensuring lasting peace and of eradicating terrorism. At this point in human history, we must create the conditions for an inclusive, equitable and just global society. These are the real prerequisites for attaining long-lasting peace and security.

Thank you.

