



PERU

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Statement

by His Excellency Mr. Rafael Roncagliolo Orbegoso,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru,
at the General Debate
of the 67th General Assembly of the United Nations

New York, 27 September 2012

Mister President,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the President of the General Assembly, on behalf of President Ollanta Humala and the government and people of Peru, on your election to lead this period of sessions of the General Assembly, during which we are honored to accompany you from one of the vice-presidencies. I would also like to congratulate you on your initiative to establish the Pacific Settlement of Disputes as the central topic of our debate. The Pacific Settlement of Disputes is the most important mean to eradicate the scourge of war, the main objective of this Organization and its Charter. The commitment to avoid the threat or the use of force is the cornerstone of international peace and security.

Peru reaffirms a permanent and vigorous commitment to the principles that inspired the origin of the United Nations: the multilateralism, the pursuit of peace and international security, solidarity and cooperation. In this framework, Peru solemnly ratifies its permanent commitment to the pacific settlement of disputes.

In this task, the International Court of Justice, as the main judicial organ of the United Nations System, plays a predominant and, fortunately, increasing role, in particular in Latin America. Peru reaffirms its fully respect to the work of the Court and calls upon States to refer to it, as well as to respect and comply its decisions accordingly to Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter.

The one hundred and twenty three contentious cases submitted to the Court by December 2011, demonstrates that the international community adheres to the pacific settlement of disputes, to diplomacy and not to war. Recourse to the Court, far from being an unfriendly act, is an eloquent testimony of our peaceful will.

We reiterate our faith in multilateralism and deeply regret the existence of situations where, up- to-date, the organization has not been able to find solutions. The latest and most painful one, due to the high number of victims that it continues to produce, is the crisis in Syria. Peru condemns the use of force and violence in that country, and calls upon all parts in conflict to the immediate cease of hostilities, and to start a genuine process of dialogue and pacification in a framework of respect for the independence and sovereignty of that country, and for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens. We support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as of the Arab League, in their search for a peaceful and negotiated solution to this conflict; and encourage the mission of the Joint Special Representative, Lakhdar Brahimi.

However, this is not the only pending assignment. Peru regrets that in over 60 years our organization has not been able to find a solution to the fair claim of the Palestinian people to establish an independent State and to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized boundaries. Peru recognizes the Palestinian State, has establish diplomatic relations with it and, based on the historical position Peru has adopted since 1947 and on the International Law, supports its admission as a Member of the United Nations, without detriment to Israel's right to national security.

Also, Peru condemns, once again, the unfair and illegal economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed against Cuba, which the Organization has been unable to put an end to, despite the reiterated condemnations from this Assembly.

We also regret that it has not been possible to provide a solution to the nearly bicentennial dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom regarding the Malvinas Islands. We call upon the parties to initiate a dialogue leading to a negotiated solution.

Security Council Reform

To overcome these and other shortcomings and deficiencies of the current international order it is urgent to adopt measures within our own Organization. The most urgent one being probably the reform of the Security Council, designed to transform this body into a more efficient, transparent, democratic, and representative forum. We need the United Nations to reflect the realities of the Twenty First Century and to overcome the current architecture of the post war world of 1945. The current scenario demands a greater presence of developing countries in taking responsibility for preserving peace and security. We regret the limited progress in negotiations on this subject. We consider that this is the right moment to relaunch the reform process and we call upon the Member States to dedicate all efforts for its prompt achievement.

Rule of Law and the Fight Against Impunity

As a concrete sign of Peru's contribution to strengthening the rule of law, it has been a pleasure to deposit the instruments of ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on Cluster Munitions; as well as the amendments to the Montreal Protocol regarding ozone depleting substances.

We call upon all countries to join these instruments, tailored to fight for the defense of the environment, for the respect of Human Rights and the fight against any form of impunity. It is a moral mandate to assure that the perpetrators of grave crimes against humanity be properly tried and sanctioned.

Previous Consultation Law

The rule of law also demands more inclusive societies. Civil, political and social citizenship must encompass everyone equally. Hence, Peru has incorporated to its national legislation the dispositions of the ILO 169 Convention. Being Peru the first country to adopt these measures, indigenous peoples will be able to fully exercise their rights and assure that any investment count with an express social license within the framework of the attributions of any State.

Transnational Organized Crime and the World Drug Problem

In spite of these efforts, diverse and new threats challenge the rule of law. Transnational organized crime, supported mainly by drug trafficking, constitutes the principal menace to

democratic societies. The magnitude of the problem requires, more than ever, combined efforts with an integrated vision of co-responsibility and of global scope.

It is for that reason that this last June Peru organized the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem in an attempt to resume a political dialogue that had not taken place in nearly 20 years. This valuable occasion allowed us to prove that, from our diversity, our convergences are much greater than our discrepancies and that the will to deepen cooperation in this matter does exist. We are confident that this first step will be further complemented with new initiatives that will guarantee more exchange of information, better allocation of resources and greater results in the reduction of supply and decrease of narcotics demand, as well as advancements in the field of alternative development, topic that will be addressed next November in an international conference that Peru will be hosting.

International Presence of Peru UNASUR / ASPA

This Peruvian initiative is not the only evidence of our commitment to multilateralism and integration. Since last June, Peru chairs the Presidency Pro Tempore of the South American Union of Nations - UNASUR. We want to consolidate South America as a Zone of Peace and of validity of a democratic citizenship without exclusions. It is already a nuclear weapon free zone and we hope that it soon comes to be free from anti-personnel mines. We need that the money currently spent in arms be redirected towards development and the defeat of poverty and inequality.

At the same time, we welcome with enthusiasm and expectation the efforts of the government of President Santos of Colombia, to open the path of dialogue to end long years of violence, which is claimed by the Colombian people. From this platform, our best wishes for the success of this initiative.

From the South American perspective we also aspire to build bridges with all the other regions of the world. In such spirit, Peru will, in a few days, welcome State and Government leaders from South American and Arab countries in the 3rd Summit of South America and Arab Countries (ASPA). This summit has become an important instrument in bringing the two regions closer together and, through it, all integrating countries have opened a channel for dialogue and for political understanding at the highest level. This will allow us the opportunity of developing common interests in areas such as commerce, investment, and culture, all in benefit of our populations.

Mister President,

Economic Growth and Social Inclusion

Thanks to healthy macroeconomic policies, Peru has continued to grow, reaching in 2011 a rate of 6.92% and a 5.7% average rate in the last 10 years.

Nevertheless, in spite of the good results, wide sectors of the population do not participate fully of the benefits of the economic growth. Hence, it is time to ensure growth with social inclusion. President Ollanta Humala has prioritized that from the beginning of his administration.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

The new vision that Peru promotes is oriented to further economic growth and democratic stability as it maximizes and expands social well being, harmonizing productive activities with environmental preservation.

In Peru's vision, since Rio + 20, the establishment of the Post 2015 Development Agenda must accomplish a convergence of the process of the Millennium Development Goals with the process of the Objectives of Sustainable Development.

Mister President,

Peru's commitment to the United Nations Organization is old and deep. Allow me to conclude honoring here to three prominent Peruvian diplomats who have occupied the highest responsibilities within the System: Ambassador Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of this Organization (1982-1991); Ambassador Víctor Andrés Belaúnde, President of the 14th General Assembly (1959-1960), and Ambassador José Luis Bustamante y Rivero, President of the International Court of Justice (1967-1969). The recognition and responsibilities that they received from the International Community show that Peru has always been committed to peace and to the observance of International Law. I am pleased to see you, Permanent Representative of Peru, leading this debate.

As cofounder of some of the main regional fora: the Andean Community, the South American Union of Nations and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Peru has always been a standard-bearer of integration and of the good and respectful relations with the members of the international community, in particular, with the countries from our region and its neighboring countries. As basis of this policy, Peru has always trusted -and will continue to do so- in the strength and primacy of International Law and in the pacific settlement of disputes. It is with this conviction that the government of President Ollanta Humala reiterates its invariable adherence to the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

Thank you very much.