

Considerations on peace and equitable development

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The proposal presented by Rajiv Gandhi to the United Nations in 1988 responded, at that point in time, to the spirit of the action taken by the Group of Six to which Mexico belongs, together with India, Argentina, Greece, Sweden and Tanzania. We must recall that this group was set up in line with an idea presented by the distinguished stateswoman Indira Gandhi to the Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

The first meeting was held in New Delhi in 1985, and we later met in Stockholm and in Ixtapa, Mexico. Our proposal was, without a doubt, important in its time, and contributed effectively to the advances that have been made during the last years in regard to nuclear disarmament.

I fully coincide that, although considerable advances have been achieved due to the arrangements made by the Soviet Union and its newly formed countries and the United States of America, there is still a long way to go.

We must maintain as our final goal the abolition of arms capable of massive destruction, and the worldwide prohibition of the testing,

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development, production and transfer of nuclear weapons; we must also ratify the agreements that have been reached in this sense in regard to biological and chemical weapons.

Compliance with the agreements so far achieved, through mechanisms for monitoring and supervision, and financial and technical support for the destruction of these weapons, wherever they may be, are of fundamental importance. This is particularly indispensable in the case of Russia and the successors of the Soviet Union where nuclear arms exist.

Likewise, it is indispensable to achieve, as soon as possible, the

sale. The arms race, which is supported and financed by several countries, constitutes a high risk for regional and world peace; worse still is the sale of arms to terrorist groups or delinquents in general, particularly drug traffickers. The necessary agreements and mechanisms must be promoted at the level of the United Nations Organization.

We must continue to strengthen the mechanisms for the prevention of conflicts and the solution of controversies which clearly constitute a danger to regional peace and risk being extended internationally. The United Nations has assumed an

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definite prohibition of nuclear tests and their subsequent development and production. It is also imperative to arrive at a moratorium and, later, final prohibition, of testing and development of armament systems in space.

At the same time, the world must continue to advance towards the control and reduction of conventional weapons and the regulation of their

important role in this regard, but it does not have the necessary institutional and financial resources to carry out its mission successfully.

It is recommendable that the effort towards the prevention and solution of conflicts be concentrated in the United Nations Organization, and that the international regional agencies assist the worldwide Organization in these

tasks, instead of becoming isolated forums having different criteria.

Conditions for world peace and security will not be solid and permanent if international cooperation is not substantially increased for a sustainable and equitable development. Extreme poverty and the growing inequality between the rich countries and developing countries, or

development of humanity will continue to be at great risk.

As regards the economy, it is indispensable to conclude trade negotiations within GATT, because if these long negotiations are frustrated we will run the risk of incurring trade wars and new protectionisms which will imply stagnation and regression in the international economy.

It is important to continue to promote democratic values and respect for human rights, but we must be careful that this task not be transformed into new forms of intervention on the part of powerful countries to the detriment of weaker countries, nor into seeking to establish universal models of institutions of democratic processes, which can only develop and take root in accordance with the conditions of each country.

The development of a new world civilization based on peace, security, development, democracy, human rights and justice requires restructuring international organizations. The premise upon which this restructuring should be based is the political willpower of the member states, but during this process they must seek an adequate balance in the composition of the agencies of the international organizations.

As regards the concrete case of the United Nations Organization, a new, democratic and efficient balance must be sought between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice. At the same time, as the strengthening

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decidedly poor countries, increases day by day. This trend is not to be tolerated, for both ethical as well as practical reasons.

The great migrations which are growing rapidly from South to North, or from East to West, or West to East, as the case may be, have this increasing imbalance as their structural cause. The achievement of a sustainable and equitable development is a challenge of prime importance at the end of this century and it will be prolonged throughout the 21st century.

The Rio de Janeiro Conference, held in June 1992, was a step forward towards the formation of an international consensus and the adoption of certain initial commitments. However, there is a need for a greater political willingness on the part of countries to attack global problems and to strengthen international cooperation in economic, financial and technological matters.

If no concrete advances for the compliance with and extension of the commitments and programs contained in Agenda 21 are made, there will be great international disappointment and a sustainable and equitable

Another serious problem to be faced is the great scarcity of financial resources needed for sustainable and equitable development. One part of the necessary effort to be made by all countries is to increase their domestic savings, but they must also increase and improve the transfer of resources from industrialized countries to developing countries.

“Powerful countries should not seek to establish universal models of institutions of democratic processes”

The increase of investment flows from industrialized countries to developing countries must also be substantially augmented, together with technologies suited to the needs of each country in accordance with its stage of development. Countries in the process of development should channel greater resources towards their own educational, scientific and technological development.

of the mechanisms for the prevention and peaceful solution of conflicts occurs, there must be a substantial energizing of the institutions and programs in charge of international cooperation for development.

These last few years of the 20th century must be used to prepare an international order more suited to the great and serious challenges that humanity is facing ❧