



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. LEONEL FERNANDEZ REYNA,
PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, September 20, 2006
(check against delivery)

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**INTERVENTION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,
H.E. LEONEL FERNANDEZ, BEFORE THE 61 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS.**

Madame President.
Mr. Secretary General.
Distinguished Heads of State and Government.
Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
Permanent Representatives.
Ladies and Gentlemen:

For me it is a great honour to extend my most cordial congratulations to Her Excellency, Mrs. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, of Bahrain, for her election, as the first woman of the Middle East, to preside over the work of this sixty-first General Assembly of the United Nations

We recognize the great responsibility at hand, having to promote dialogue and harmony in the midst of the spread of conflicts throughout the different corners of the world.

We likewise wish to recognize Secretary-General Kofi Annan for having concluded ten years at the head of this international organization, for the immense efforts undertaken in favor of maintaining peace and security, and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In an effort to provide continuity to the process of U.N. Reform, so notably promoted by Secretary-General Annan, our country wishes to reiterate its conviction that any reform has to be accompanied by a greater democratization. For this reason we recognize the unquestionable accomplishments achieved during this process, such as the creation of the Human Rights Commission, as well as that of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Notwithstanding, this reform process would remain incomplete if it did not include the Security Council, the organ most specifically charged with the political decisions taken within this Organization.

It is our conviction that the Security Council must be expanded, to make it more plural and participatory, with the aim of having a more equitable representation of the different regions, as well as of the national interests, that prevail in today's world.

Also, there is a need for greater fluidity in the relations between the Security Council and important United Nations organs such as the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Madame President:

One of the global issues that is of great concern in the Dominican Republic and other parts of the world, is that of human security.

We have observed, with great consternation, how in recent years there has been an erosion of the internal security of nations, thereby generating an increase in the levels of violence and criminality.

This situation, without a doubt, has been fueled by a combination of factors, among them drug trafficking, the illicit trafficking of arms, the trafficking of persons, and other further collective criminal behavior.

In dealing with this dramatic situation, which is leading some peoples to desperation, the Dominican Republic maintains itself vigilant in the continuous struggle, and urges that the international community to strengthen control and prevention mechanisms that are required to halt these modern challenges that only contribute to instill fear and restlessness among defenseless civilian populations.

Another issue, also of great importance for the advancement and well being of our nations, which constitutes the main point on the agenda of the General Assembly, is that of the relationship between migration and sustainable development.

We believe that the migratory phenomenon constitutes a great ally to the cause of development. However, in this modern world of globalization lies an implicit contradiction in that the free flow of merchandise, capital, and services are promoted, while restrictions are placed upon the free flow of human labor.

Although each State exercises its sovereign right in the implementation of its migratory policies, it is our conviction that the asymmetry that currently exists between the free flow of production variables and the free flow of persons, will cease to exist with time.

According to the conservative sector in the developed world, migration constitutes an invasion from the underdeveloped countries to those most developed. Furthermore, it is considered as an act of revenge for the territorial expropriation that took place in the colonial era, and as a threat to the existence of their current way of life.

This is a fallacy. Migration is not an invasion of the poor to the developed countries, nor is it a threat to their current way of life. Migration, frankly speaking, constitutes one of the means in which human beings have historically resorted to, and currently continue to do so, in order to achieve greater levels of stability, liberty, and justice.

As it will not be possible to make this phenomenon disappear, we can only aspire to oversee it in a legal and organized fashion, in the framework of respect for the human rights and dignity of all persons.

In the meantime, many people could benefit from this situation, through remittances, the creation of contact and cooperation networks, human resources capacity building, technology transfer, and diverse forms of collaboration and exchange.

In another regard, the grave events that recently took place in the Middle East have filled us with alarm and consternation. These represent a dramatic reminder that tensions that affect the peace of entire regions still persist.

As in other conflicts, the existing one between Israel and its neighbors can only be overcome through dialogue and the good endeavors of the United Nations, which recently achieved the cessation of hostilities between the two disputing parties. We are confident that a definitive peace will prevail in this region, and allow the development of enhanced levels of understanding, tolerance, and co-existence among its inhabitants.

The Dominican Republic maintains its interest in continuing to participate in the promotion of the peace strengthening processes, and that of conflict resolution.

We reiterate our profound commitment to the activities and objectives of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in considering these suitable for the advancement and dignity of all the women of the world and, in particular, the women of countries such as the Dominican Republic.

As the host country, we warmly salute the support given by Member States to the INSTRAW.

Finally, Madame President:

The Dominican Republic has assumed a strong commitment to the reestablishment of stability in Haiti, and in this regard applauds the recent decision of the Security Council to extend for six more months the mandate of the Mission of Stabilization, MINUSTAH.

For our country, it is of particular interest that there be an increase of international cooperation aimed at preserving the pace of the reconstruction process of this sister nation. With respect to our two countries, our warm relations are likewise expressed through the Dominican-Haitian Commission, a forum in which our two governments are dedicated to a pro-active approach to address issues of common concern. Both countries recognize this as the most appropriate mechanism for discussion and reaching agreements on many topics of common concern.

In concluding my remarks, we share with you the desire to see the United Nations renew and strengthen itself, with the view of achieving a more active, dynamic, and effective role, one which would guarantee the fulfillment of the values and principles that were consecrated in the San Francisco Charter, so as to assure that peace on Earth will be the habitual form of co-existence between human beings.

I thank you.