



# Republic of Nicaragua

H.E. SAMUEL SANTOS LOPEZ  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

GENERAL DEBATE  
6<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Mr. President,**

**Joseph Deiss (Switzerland)**

**Excellency:**

In the name of the Nicaraguan people and of Comrade President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, I bring a warm and fraternal greeting for you, Mr. President, and for each and every one of the peoples and governments represented in this General Assembly.

**Mr. President:**

Given the grave nature of humanity's problems, we have before us a world panorama with characteristics of an apocalypse in which we begin to doubt the capacity for reason and the strength of human beings' most noble sentiments. Diverse forms of information are manipulated by the global media of communication in order to continually discredit the self sustaining efforts and independence of the governments of the south. These disseminate the idea that humanity is impotent in the face of the present state of disaster and that it must be prepared for the worse. Further, no one is made responsible for this, there is no face, **so the industrialized countries of the north are exempt of responsibility.**

But we know that the fundamental cause of the deep crises we face is the nature of the present system of economic, political and social relations **established by global capitalism and the effort to make this the universal paradigm.**

In this regard, the poor countries, which are euphemistically called developing countries, **can unveil the faces** of those who, driven by greed, selfishness and the desire for absolute power, in the name of a **manifest destiny** or **of a divine reason**, put us at the brink of extinction.

**Mr. President:**

Nicaragua, which has first hand knowledge of the pain and injustice of war, **is against war.** We do not accept the failure of reason, we do not accept war as the obligatory language among peoples. **Nicaragua** rejects war as the solution to conflicts between States. We reject war as a means for appropriation over the planet's natural resources and the imposition of hegemony of a few over the majority of the world's nations.

No war will bring a partial or momentary solution, much less will a war bring about a definitive solution. The invasion of Iraq by foreign troops under false pretexts has not offered that country peace or stability. On the contrary, the country has been destroyed and stability has not been guaranteed for the region. The war in Afghanistan has become a dead-end for its

occupiers, while it has resulted in negative conditions for its neighbors. Security Council resolution 1929 which imposes new sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran has increased the potential for large scale military conflict with unforeseeable consequences. War games on the Korean Peninsula increase tension in that zone and put advances between the Koreas at risk.

Europe nor the Persian Gulf have escaped the military zones which are underway. The establishment of military bases and the display of naval and air power on Latin American soil **threaten the political stability of our nations.**

“Among individuals and between nations, respect to the other one’s rights is equivalent to peace.” This saying by Benito Juárez, President of Mexico, and the first indigenous president in the Americas, clearly reflects the notion and will for peace of the peoples of the world. This quote should be a guide for action by our Organization, particularly, by the Security Council, in order that its actions strictly adhere to the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

On the other hand, for Nicaragua, **there is a close relation between disarmament and development.** Our commitment to security includes a commitment to the promotion of **human development which we understand to be equivalent to sustainable development** - development centered on the human being which should take place with good government practices and direct citizens’ participation and with social equality, all of which is **indispensable for true development.**

From our point of view, **the assignment of resources released as a result of disarmament should be directed to guaranteeing national development social goals in each of our countries.** If we were to gloss over fact that **trillions of dollars** are spent on war, we would realize how many human problems could have been resolved, thus alleviating the **pain caused by poverty and exclusion.** The world economic and financial crisis has had little or no effect on world military spending.

**Mr. President:**

Nicaragua continues to have a firm commitment to the cause of general and complete disarmament.

Nicaragua, considers that to guarantee strict compliance with the arms control and disarmament accords and **in order that we attain total disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament,** there must be a climate of fundamental trust and solidarity as the only option for real and lasting world peace. Nicaragua supports the inalienable right of the parties to the Non

Proliferation Treaty to use nuclear energy for indiscriminate peaceful purposes. **Nicaragua** encourages actions taken in favor of the exchange of material resources, equipment and technology destined to the peaceful use of nuclear energy which would guarantee sustainable economic development in every nation and in the world.

Precisely because of this conviction, Nicaragua demands that Iran nor any other nation be cornered because they develop nuclear programs for peaceful purposes. It is possible to develop trust on the basis of dialogue and negotiation. In this regard **Nicaragua** joins the general support garnered by the tripartite declaration (Brazil, Turkey, Iran) which constitutes an alternative toward regional and world peace.

**Mr. President:**

Yesterday it was a warning, today it is a reality: the present international moment is of a global political crisis. The whole of the political model that was constructed and articulated around the neo-liberalism, globalization and the free market paradigm is being questioned.

We generally need more decisive action which affirms multilateralism as the new paradigm – a form of multilateralism that listens to the voices of the peoples who are living in extreme poverty and underdevelopment; that really and effectively democratizes the world order broadly, beginning with this Organization, including its Security Council, and the whole of the United Nations System, and re-establishes the representational and democratic rights of its 192 Member States, and which establishes the rights and obligations that are common to all the States without undermining their sovereignty, independence and self-determination and regardless of their size.

In Latin America and the Caribbean this trend of questioning is manifest in the process of integration and unity taking place among our peoples. We have already made the historic decision of creating the Latin American and Caribbean Community of States, whose institutionalization will begin next year and conclude in 2012, in another unquestionable proof of the profound changes that are taking place in the world.

The Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our Americas, ALBA has become the vanguard of the process of change. The struggle against any type of intervention, including military intervention, and the struggle for the preservation and the re-establishment of peace are essential component of this Alliance's action in its relation to the world. This strengthens its capacity to guarantee the national sovereignty of the peoples.

Nicaragua joins the brotherly people of Puerto Rico in upholding the banners of its independence which have unjustly been violated.

The criminal economic blockade of the government of the United States of America against the brotherly people and government of heroic Cuba must stop immediately, and the five Cuban heroes, anti terrorist combatants who are imprisoned in United States jails, must be released now.

We express our solidarity with the brotherly people of Argentina in their demand for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, and with the brotherly people Democratic Arab Saharan Republic in their quest to be recognized as an independent State.

The war and state terrorism against the people of Palestine must immediately cease. All Security Council and General Assembly resolutions regarding Israel must be respected. The hands of those that fan the flames of hate and war and are capable of attacking a humanitarian flotilla should be tied. The attack on the flotilla was denounced by the Human Rights Council Investigation Commission.

We salute the invitation to Taiwan by the international community to participate in some of the United Nations specialized agencies whose work is directly related to the wellbeing of the 23 million Taiwanese. In this regard we call on the United Nations Convention for a Framework on Climate Change and the International Civil Aviation Organization to do adopt a similar position.

**Mr. President:**

Never before have we had so much information, or probably been so conscious of the severity of the environmental crisis of our planet. This consciousness makes it indispensable that we develop a coalition forged around our lofty values and principles which should be the ethical foundation and catalyst for practices conducive to a sustainable way of life.

The Earth, with its minerals and sources of energy, with its land, water, forests and marine life, with its ecosystems and micro-organisms, must be recognized as our supreme and universal benefactor, as an integral part of humanity, not only as a source of survival.

Global capitalism and its logic of competition and unlimited growth, with its unsustainable mode of production and consumption, separates the human being from nature, and justifies its domination. **This situation must change before it is too late for all of us.**

Copenhagen demonstrated the power of the interests that block decisive action on climate change and the rights of Mother Earth. Copenhagen left us with a sense of having wasted our time, of the lack of commitment by those who block the urgent solutions we need in order to address the critical state of Mother Earth.

Dear Friends: **With our vision set on hope** we continue to promote our commitments based on the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which should be proportional to the accumulated emission of greenhouse effect gases since the Industrial Revolution and not since last year. Those who have historically caused damage should assume more responsibility.

**Based on this hope**, Nicaragua is the first country in the world to have signed the Universal Declaration on the General Wellbeing of Mother Earth and Humanity, and we call on all the countries of the world to sign it.

**Based on this hope**, Nicaragua has also signed the People's Accord adopted in Cochabamba in April during the People's World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth.

**Based on this hope**, Nicaragua trusts that when we arrive in Cancún we will be united in order to come to agreements that will at least partially reverse the harm, and to adopt the path that re-establishes the lost or gravely endangered balance between Man and Mother Earth.

**Mr. President:**

Although it is proclaimed without much proof that the worse of the world economic and financial crisis is behind us, its most serious effects remain and continue to deeply affect our peoples. We should not continue to accept the imposition of economic models based on the pillage and exploitation of our riches. For these reasons, Nicaragua and most of the Latin American nations are devoting themselves to constructing an alternative model of economic sovereignty, a sphere of interdependence and solidarity that permit us to face global capitalism's profound crisis and to recuperate our capacity to determine our own paths to development.

We reaffirm that the development strategies of each country are their own responsibility and should be owned and led at a national level; that foreign aid should be in tuned to the national strategies, plans and objectives of the countries that receive it.

Regarding the urgent need to create a new model, we reiterate our support of the final document of the International Conference of the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its

Impact on Development which took place in June 2009. There can be no economic recovery or balance in the context of the inequality that characterizes the present model which concentrates income and wealth among and within nations.

We also reaffirm the framework of mutual respect, devoid of punitive political conditions against our peoples that would block and stifle the development of the countries of the south.

**Mr. President:**

Besides the hundreds of millions of hungry people in the world, we have before us the hair-raising reality of 10.9 million children under five years old who die in the developing countries each year, and malnutrition and hunger related diseases cause 60 per cent of these deaths. The cost of malnutrition to national economic development is estimated at between 20 to 30 billion dollars per year. This intolerable situation must stop. **The developed countries must fulfill their commitments to eliminate the suffering of millions of human beings.**

**Mr. President:**

**Nicaragua** reaffirms its decision to face, with the means it has available and in the context of its national sovereignty, the diverse manifestations of transnational organized crime which have become a permanent threat to internal and international security. **Nicaragua** also reiterates its position that it will struggle against all manifestations terrorism wherever their source.

**Mr. President:**

There are several processes that slow down necessary and urgent changes, the main one being the suppression of information, not saying anything in order to perpetuate ignorance. And when information is made available, it is distorted and always against the interests of the peoples and their legitimate aspirations and experiences, thus converting lies into truths and vice versa, thus converting an expression into a smirk, words into noise and an objective fact into virtual reality.

From the perspective of global communication, the universal citizen is waging a true war for truth and freedom because change, hope, and the true future history holds are permanently degraded before his eyes. The implications of this are long range and they have the objective of destroying the process of direct popular democracy and the profound revolutionary social transformations which are taking place in our countries as a result of the triumph of revolutionary political forces, **as is the case of the Frente Sandinista in Nicaragua.**

**We must denounce this campaign which is used by the hegemonic and selfish interests of a few countries to undermine the legitimacy of our political system and our People's Government.**

**Mr. President:**

**Nicaragua** declares its right to live in peace and to struggle against poverty, illiteracy, hunger and malnutrition, which are generated by historic exclusion and the imposition of an economic and political model which is alien to our reality.

**Nicaragua** declares its dignity, sovereignty, self-determination, respect, unity and solidarity with all the peoples of the Earth as guaranteed by the United Nations Charter. **Nicaragua** works to develop a social consciousness of solidarity which identifies with the ideals of humaneness, justice, freedom and democracy for all and precludes exclusion.

From this forum, **Nicaragua** makes a vehement call for world Peace, for the survival of the human species, for the dignified future of the noblest aspirations of Man. This is the only possible future.

Thank you very much.