

Statement by Ambassador Alfredo Labbé
Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

Meeting of the Plenary Assembly on the Reform of the United Nations

New York, 21 June 2005

Mr. President,

The draft outcome document now under consideration by the Assembly marks an important step forward along the road that we have been traveling on since last November and we wish to thank you and your Facilitators for the hard work you have put in. In doing so, I believe that it is my duty to mention the contribution of the Group of Friends for Reform of the United Nations – of which Chile is honoured to be a part – and whose most recent accomplishment are the ***Santiago Guidelines of Action***.

I will now comment on the document in the order of the thematic clusters and will attempt to be as brief and as concise as possible.

DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President,

We fully share the vision set forth in paragraph 13 of the document, which reaffirms that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development. Chile maintains that – in order to achieve the Goals and Objectives of the Millennium Declaration – national efforts must take precedence over global coordination and strategies: ***we must develop ourselves, no one can develop us***. We therefore welcome the contents of the second bullet of paragraph 13, which highlights the critical importance of good governance as a prerequisite for development.

It is true that national efforts require timely and effective official development assistance (ODA). It is therefore essential that we achieve as soon as possible the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. To that end, we strongly support the contents of paragraph 14, which was drafted on the basis of the Monterrey Consensus.

We must also continue to explore new sources of development financing. To that end, Chile was one of the earliest supporters of the ***Initiative against Hunger and Poverty*** and of the work of the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms.

While we agree that special attention must be paid to the needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), we should not neglect the needs of middle-income countries, many of which suffer from structural weaknesses and serious imbalances in income distribution. One way forward is to work towards the successful completion of the Doha Round, as was recognized in bullets 6, 7 and 8 of paragraph 14.

Mr. President,

We support in general the contents of the remaining paragraphs (15-26) of the first chapter of the document. I wish to draw particular attention to the constructive proposal on the so-

called "**Quick Win**" initiatives as well as the proposal to undertake concerted global action to mitigate the effects of climate change.

We believe that it is essential to fully implement the **Beijing Declaration** and Plan of Action: we are convinced that not only social and economic development but also **conflict prevention and resolution** require stronger protection of the rights of women. This will necessitate a qualitative and quantitative increase in the education of girls and adolescents, protecting the property rights of women, promoting equal access for women to the labour market and greater representation and participation in public decision-making, as well as programmes of support to prevent violence against women, in any of its forms, among other things.

The special needs of Africa, Mr. President, are a challenge to the conscience of humanity. Chile therefore supports paragraph 26.

PEACE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Mr. President,

Chile sees human security as a paradigm and its multilateral action is premised on the centrality of men and women. This means promoting the view that security is for the human being and that the ultimate objective of all international instruments and structures for the maintenance of international security is to permit people to fully enjoy all the human rights inherent in their nature and dignity, **which not only take precedence over the State but are the *raison d'être* of the State.** Paragraph 75 therefore deserves not only our support but also our commendation.

Based on the paradigm of human security, Chile is in general agreement with Chapter III of the document, and in particular with paragraphs 31 and 32 (although we would have preferred an appeal to sign the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the non-participation of children in armed conflicts), and paragraph 37.

We support the proposal contained in paragraph 38 for the establishment of a rapid deployment **standby** capacity and also support the recognition of the role of regional organizations in paragraph 39.

We fully support the establishment of the **Peacebuilding Commission**, the need for which can be seen from the experience of numerous peacekeeping missions. The Commission can become a valuable tool to provide support for post-conflict reconstruction, which the current structure of the United Nations does not permit the Organization to handle effectively. In order to succeed, however, its mandate must include a strong preventive component. We fully support the procedural measures recommended in paragraph 41.

With regard to the **use of force**, we reiterate the need to establish a common standard, without amending the Charter. We therefore support the idea of a resolution that sets out the principles that should govern the use of force. This proposal is consistent with the need to strengthen the rule of law globally, by introducing greater legal certainty regarding the criteria for the implementation of Chapter VII of the Charter.

Mr. President,

Chile is a party to all of the universal disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments and to all relevant conventions of the inter-American system. We are also parties to the Hague Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles. We therefore support paragraphs 48-53 of the document, even though we would have preferred a general appeal for the early signature or ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and of the Ottawa Convention, which outlaws anti-personnel landmines.

The proliferation of ballistic missiles and MANPADS deserve separate paragraphs in future versions of this document.

The failure of the VII NPT Review Conference, which was due to abuse of the rule of consensus, requires us to consider all actions permitted by the Charter to strengthen and preserve the non-proliferation regime of this Treaty, as well as those of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions. We therefore welcome bullet five of paragraph 50, which recognizes the IAEA Additional Safeguards Protocol as the standard for verification of compliance.

Mr. President,

Chile supports paragraphs 54 to 61 of the document. We believe that it is necessary to make a further effort to define terrorism and to develop an effective global anti-terrorist strategy. With regard to paragraph 59, we recognize the importance of appointing a Special Rapporteur for counter-terrorism and human rights. We believe that the September document must recognize the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committees of the Security Council and urge them to intensify their work.

We also consider it essential to include a forthright appeal for the early signature and ratification of the multilateral conventions against transnational organized crime and corruption.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

Mr. President,

Universal and effective respect for human rights is the ultimate and overarching objective of all genuine and legitimate multilateralism. We therefore fully support the contents of paragraph 62.

Chile believes that a new high-level organ with an effective mandate – such as the Human Rights Council proposed by the Secretary-General – will better respond to the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations in this area. The mandate and composition of such an organ require carefully discussion. But the complexity of the issue should not be used as a pretext for avoiding a decision consistent with what the document recognizes as “**core values**” of the United Nations.

We agree with the idea of establishing mechanisms to prevent the politicization, selectivity and duplication that now exist in certain aspects of the work of existing organs, but – recognizing the important work that they have done, particularly in the field of standard-setting – we are in favour of preserving the valuable store of knowledge accumulated over several decades and maintaining good working practices, in particular cooperation with civil society, which is fundamental for the defence of human rights.

We support the proposal contained in paragraph 65. This can be improved even further by including a reference to the voluntary fund.

Mr. President,

In supporting paragraph 67, we note with satisfaction that the document has been enriched by the mention of internally displaced persons. Indeed, we welcome the recognition of the "**Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**" as the norm for the protection of this particularly vulnerable group.

Paragraph 71, whose necessity and appropriateness we recognize from our historical experience as a nation, deserves our unconditional support.

Chile agrees that the **responsibility to protect** civilian populations lies first and foremost with the State. The international community must encourage and, if necessary, help States to exercise this responsibility effectively. The formulation of paragraph 72 is essentially correct and deserves our support.

From the operational perspective, Chile views the responsibility to protect as a "**continuum**" that includes international **prevention and assistance** entities and functions, and as the development and creation of national capacities. We have already said that the responsibility to protect implies a **responsibility to prevent and assist**.

In order to protect the civilian population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, the international community is obliged to have recourse first of all to the peaceful means provided for in Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter. Responding to the wrongful acts listed in paragraph 72 is clearly an obligation of the international community.

But collective action under Chapter VII, through the Security Council and with the cooperation of regional organizations, must be undertaken only if the peaceful means and instruments provided for in Chapters VI and VIII prove ineffective. We believe that **the Security Council does not require new powers in order to assume this responsibility**.

Mr. President,

Chile reaffirms democracy as a universal right. Its recognition as a "**universal value**" in paragraph 68 deserves our full support. We also support the mechanisms for its promotion, particularly the Democracy Fund of the United Nations, referred to in paragraph 69. We hope that the Fund will be operational by September.

The promotion of democracy as a universal right includes an inter-institutional dimension. We believe that the inclusion of an appeal for cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Democracies in this or another section of the document could contribute to the promotion of the democratic ideal. An appeal of this type will reflect the views of more than 140 countries as expressed in the Santiago Ministerial Commitment at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, held in Chile last April.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We reiterate that, as stated in paragraph 79 of the document, the **General Assembly** must regain its position as the deliberative and policymaking forum of the United Nations. This requires, however, a lightening of the burden of its heavy work agenda. We need fewer documents and resolutions and better implementation, as stated in paragraph 82. The duplication of work between the main organs of the system must be seriously addressed.

We support the proposals contained in paragraph 86, particularly the annual ECOSOC ministerial-level reviews and the conversion of its operational segment into a biennial high-level development cooperation forum.

As I said in commenting on Chapter IV, Chile supports the creation of a **Human Rights Council**: the proposal contained in paragraph 89 is a constructive one and we will therefore work actively during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly to adopt its modalities, functions, procedures and methods of work.

The **Security Council** has a key role to play in this reform exercise. Chile's position is well known. We are nonetheless concerned at the growing polarization around the major decisions that we are required to take and that the debate on the Security Council might overshadow the reform of the rest of the Organization.

The reform of the **Secretariat** needs to be deepened. We believe the Secretary-General ought to have "sufficient authority and flexibility" to implement the streamlining of the **Secretariat**, as set out in paragraph 90. However, in order to come to fruition, the aforementioned enhanced authority should be accompanied by a greater commitment and responsibility from the member states, with a view to increasing the credibility of the organization. The section on the Secretariat deserves our support, in particular the call in paragraph 101 for closer cooperation between the United Nations and the **Inter-Parliamentary Union**, an organization that is currently headed by a distinguished Senator of the Republic of Chile.

Mr. President,

We support paragraph 99 of the document and stress the importance of **international environmental governance**. In our view, the sustainable development component should be present in any development strategy and in all United Nations programmes.

It is also essential – as stated in paragraph 100 – to have a stronger and smoother relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter.

We note with satisfaction the positive welcome given in paragraph 102 of the document to the important role of civil society and the private sector in achieving the common goals of development, promotion and defense of human rights, and the maintenance of security. We would like, however, to see this reflected in the chapter on values and principles.

Lastly, the updating of the Charter envisaged in paragraphs 103, 104 and 105 of the document has our full support.

Thank you very much.