

**REMARKS BY AMB. ALICIA BUENROSTRO MASSIEU**  
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**Introduction and acknowledgements**

1. I would like to start by thanking my dear friends and colleagues, Amb. Xavier Sticker and Amb. Gerhard Küntzle for organizing this panel aimed at starting a constructive conversation at the dawn of this new year, a conversation that we envisage as to the work to be undertaken throughout 2020 in all our meetings and negotiations. It is also fitting that the panel should take place this day of Franco-German partnership.

**A) The Alliance for Multilateralism is pertinent and timely**

2. As a starting point, I wish to stress the pertinence of the Alliance for Multilateralism. (As has been thoroughly described by the speakers before me), the multilateral order is facing its most serious crisis since its emergence after the Second World War. We are before an international “trust recession” where some actors -for a variety of reasons- are favoring competition and confrontation over cooperation, and unilateral over multilateral action.
3. And this is happening at a time when challenges of a global nature are increasing in magnitude and complexity. To highlight a few, the urgent global issues before us involve risks associated with a) the environment and climate change; b) rapid technological change and cybersecurity; c) international peace and security; d) human rights and gender equality; and e) economics and trade.
4. Because of their nature, although these issues have very grave local consequences, we can only address them through collective action at the international level.
5. Mexico’s diplomatic tradition and outlook is firmly anchored in multilateralism. Therefore, we have encouraged and supported the Alliance from the outset. We proudly became co-sponsors of the presentation of the Alliance in New York last September.

6. In May 2019, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard, and Germany, Heiko Maas, released a statement on our Alliance for the Future, with a commitment to strengthening multilateralism and a rules-based international order.
7. And just last month, in December 2019, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian subscribed the Franco-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism with action-oriented agreements.
8. I am therefore proud to represent Mexico as a partner and bridge-builder for this Alliance.

**B) The Vienna ecosystem is a great platform for the Alliance for Multilateralism**

9. It is also relevant and appropriate for this panel to take place here in Vienna, which might seem to be to the untrained eye a more discrete sibling to New York or Geneva, but which has been and will continue to be a very powerful engine for multilateralism.
10. The Vienna environment is particularly conducive for effective multilateralism for two reasons: a) because of the organizations' proven track record of technical capacity and rigor; and b) because of the working methods of its policy-making organs that favor dialogue and agreement, and which have so far endured difficult tests. Hence, Vienna-based organizations are a powerful platform for multilateralism to take action towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
11. In order for the Vienna-based organizations to contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs, we must preserve and support the technical capacities of its organizations, foster and nurture spaces for dialogue, and enable them to work together as an ecosystem.

12. The 2030 Agenda is very clear on the fact that the SDGs are interlinked and integrated, and it is therefore coherent for the Alliance for Multilateralism to favor interlinkages and integration within and among international organizations in Vienna.

### **C) The Vienna chapter of the Alliance for Multilateralism can work for people, our planet, prosperity, peace and partnership**

13. As a starting point, the Vienna chapter of the Alliance for Multilateralism must take full ownership of the 2030 Agenda, as our common plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. It might seem self-evident, but even this common understanding has faced some pushback. In any case, it must do so, bearing also in mind the integrality of the Agenda and the fact Vienna based entities contribute on one way or another to the achievement of all the 17 SDGs and not only to some of them.

14. We won't have time to go item by item through the list of SDGs, but I would like to highlight its overarching themes (its 5 Ps) and how the Vienna ecosystem can contribute, stressing the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs.

15. **P5: Partnership.** Starting from the end, the Alliance for Multilateralism in itself must support the Vienna based organizations by ensuring they have the resources to fulfill their mandates, work together, and the ability to provide technology, capacity building, trade facilitation and policy support to its member States. Fostering synergies among all UN entities, and as appropriate with other Vienna based organizations, has to be a primal task of all States, particularly for members of the Alliance.

16. All Vienna-based organizations have a direct mandate to **SDG 17** and its targets. And in a number of cases, there is ample room for cooperation among them, in order to advance all others.

17. **P4: Peace.** UNOOSA continues dedication to the peaceful use of outer space and for the benefit of humanity has been invaluable. The IAEA and the CTBTO contribute to societies free from fear through their roles in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, while UNODC, has a pivotal role in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, with access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The partnership among all three organizations, within their mandates, is essential to address and counter nuclear terrorism.
18. The UNODC work against arms-trafficking and money-laundering, among other areas, is also fundamental for achieving and promoting peaceful societies.
19. UNCITRAL makes valuable contributions to the rule of law and in the fight against corruption. And, we cannot overlook the role of decent employment in stability and peace, as supported by UNIDO's projects and programs.
20. It is evident then, that the contribution of the Vienna based organizations in this field is not limited to the work undertaken by UNODC on SDG 16.
21. **P3: Prosperity.** The technical and policy-making capacities of Vienna-based organizations can contribute to prosperous and fulfilling lives for all and to ensure that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
- UNIDOs focus on “creating shared prosperity” through inclusive and sustainable industrial development aimed at enabling economic growth and employment, including through the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
  - The IAEA's contribution to affordable and clean energy, underpinning sustainable economic growth, and nuclear technology for industry, innovation and infrastructure;
  - UNOOSA and COPUOS putting outer space technology and science at the service of peaceful development.

- UNCITRAL's work create the conditions for investment and trade that favor sustainable development.
  - UNODC fight against corruption, crime and harm caused by illicit drug trafficking, as well as its support to Alternative Development projects, contributes to the well-being of people and societies.
22. Likewise, Vienna based organizations of the UNODC and related treaty bodies, are greatly contributing to achieving a number of SDGs such as SDG 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 16, essential elements for the creation of prosperity.
23. As a cross-cutting consideration, as stakeholders we must be vigilant to ensure that the creation of prosperity is also coupled to a reduction of inequalities, in order to ensure its social and political sustainability.
24. **P2: Planet.** Vienna, as an energy policy hub, has a key role to play in the protection of the planet from degradation, to sustainable consumption and production. In this regard, the Vienna ecosystem is also a protagonist towards the preservation and achievement of the Paris Agreement.
- For those states that choose to do so, the IAEA can support the transition towards a lower carbon emission energy mix through the use of nuclear.
  - UNIDO's energy efficiency program can facilitate the reduction of industry's carbon footprint, which stands at around a third of global emissions at this point. Additionally, UNIDO's circular economy approach can contribute to the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns.
  - By working towards achieving access to sustainable energy for all, SE4All is also helping to reduce poverty and inequalities, but also to have sustainable cities and clean lands and waters, and help to save life at land and at sea.
  - CTBTO's international monitoring system, and the dialogue it has established between science and diplomacy have already proven valuable to the understanding of our planet. UNOOSA and COPUOS have also made valuable contributions in this regard.

- By combatting crimes against the environment, including illicit drug crops and corruption present in the fisheries, mining and forestry sectors, among others, UNODC is also spearheading, the protection of oceans, forests and biodiversity through the emerging tools against crimes related to the environment.
- In addition to its technical contribution in a number of fields, UNOOSA continuously remind us that we have only one world we have to preserve, and on the foolishness of pretending to militarize outer space.

25. Hence, in addition the Vienna international organizations besides contributing to obvious SDGs such as 14 and 15, and even 13, their work also has a positive impact on other SDGs such as 3, 6 or 11.

26. **PI: People.** I close with the dimension related to people, since we cannot forget that our constituents are our citizens and that we are ultimately accountable to them. We must therefore enable Vienna based organizations to deploy all the tools they have developed in order to end poverty and hunger, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

- As we know very well, nuclear science and technology can contribute to and meet development objectives in areas including energy, human health, food production, water management and environmental protection.
- Inclusive and sustainable industrial development creates jobs that lift people out of poverty, supports value addition to agricultural output, fosters the development of the pharmaceutical industry, and favors technical and vocational training.
- Public health, must also be front and center in the approach of the UNODC and related treaty bodies.
- Access to the resources needed to escape poverty and hunger, as well as access education and decent work are only sustainable if there is also rule of law and access to justice.

27. Here, too, underpinning all our efforts must be the guiding principle of gender equality, in conception, process and outcome. This involves

gender parity in organizations (where Vienna is lagging behind in comparison to the wider UN system); gender sensitive policies and a gender perspective in programming, among others.

28. On this point, I am proud to share with you that Mexico formally adopted a feminist oriented foreign policy two weeks ago. Furthermore, with France we are piloting the Generation Equality Forum this year, which will kick off in Mexico City in May and wrap up in Paris in July.

## **Conclusion**

29. Obviously, there is much more to be said on how multilateralism in Vienna must be protected, supported, and guided towards the achievement of the SDGs. Needless to say, that every action undertaken by the Vienna based organizations have to be oriented first and foremost by the wellbeing of the human being and the health of the planet.

30. I nevertheless hope to have highlighted the urgency of setting the Alliance for Multilateralism in motion here in Vienna, harnessing the technical potential of its organizations and seizing its conducive diplomatic environment.

31. As international partners, we deliver on people, planet and prosperity, as stated in the SDGs. The work done by the Vienna ecosystem can go a long way in creating trust in the broader international environment, and with our citizens.

Thank you very much.