

**Position Paper of Mexico  
Sixty-Eighth Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations Organization (UN) and the ultimate universal forum. The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly will open in New York on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, with Ambassador John Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, as President. The General Debate will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. In it, the members of the United Nations, represented by their Heads of State or Government, by their Foreign Ministers or their Heads of Delegation, will set forth their views of the most important current international issues and their priorities on the General Assembly agenda. Although President Enrique Peña Nieto was expected to participate, because of the emergency situation in our country due to Hurricane Ingrid and Tropical Storm Manuel, it will be Dr. José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, who participates in the General Debate on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

The theme chosen by the President of the General Assembly for this session is *“The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage.”* This means that the speeches will emphasize the contributions to development of women, the young and civil society; the rule of law, international cooperation and information and communications technologies, given that the UN is in the process of defining the post-2015 development goals.

General Assembly resolutions are non-binding recommendations for the Member States, except in cases of administrative decisions on the functioning of the UN. The resolutions do, however, represent the will of a majority of the States that make up the international community and, therefore, can serve to strengthen international law or to design common public policy.

**For the Mexican delegation, the following issues will deserve special attention:**

**Plenary Meetings**

**Middle East and Africa**

Peace in the Middle East is still an unresolved issue on the global agenda and it needs the utmost attention of the UN and the international community. Mexico is in favor of a comprehensive peace that addresses the many intricacies and conflicts that affect this complex region through the use of dialogue and negotiation with full respect for international law and the human rights of all of its inhabitants.

Regarding the situation in Palestine, Mexico will continue to promote the vision of two States, Israel and a Palestinian State, both politically and economically viable, which exist side by side within secure and internationally-recognized borders, in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Mexico has condemned the continued expansion of the Israeli settlements, as well as the demolition of Palestinian homes and the evictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as acts contrary to international law that undermine the chance of peace and affect the viability of a Palestinian State. Our country urges the parties to resume direct negotiations.

Elsewhere, regarding the delicate situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Mexico has condemned the violence that has been perpetrated against the civilian population and strongly deplores the use of chemical weapons under any circumstance and by any actor. It, constitutes a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and, as such, it is a war crime. Mexico has emphasized how important and urgent it is for the international community to get involved and put a stop to the violence and suffering experienced by the Syrian people during the conflict, which has lasted for two and a half years. It has reiterated that the search for a solution in Syria must conform to the principles and provisions of the UN Charter, especially those regarding the right to the use of force. Mexico supports the recent diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful political solution to the Syrian crisis, particularly the framework agreement between the United States and Russia on the elimination of chemical weapons.

Mexico is convinced that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Syria. Therefore, Mexico favors a peaceful political solution and fully agrees with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the need to convene an international convention in Geneva, as soon as possible, with representatives from both the Syrian government and the opposition groups, to follow up on the process begun in June 2012.

Mexico is convinced that the Security Council is the only body able to legally authorize the use of force in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The prohibition of the use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes are the core Constitutional principles that guide our foreign policy, and we must act accordingly. Mexico believes that any use of force without prior authorization from the United Nations is outside of the principles and purposes of the UN and must be avoided.

In this vein, Mexico welcomed Syria's accession to the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

Similarly, it has supported the resolutions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly on the human rights situation in Syria.

Mexico has taken careful note of the significant progress made in democracy, human rights, political stability and peace in Africa and it hopes the armed conflicts and areas of political instability that persist in some subregions of the continent are resolved according to the desires of their societies and with full respect for human rights. Convinced that responsibility for peace and security in Africa lies with the African countries themselves, Mexico believes that the UN should continue to support the efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to resolve the conflict.

## **Reform of the United Nations**

Mexico will continue to work towards comprehensive reform of the UN that includes strengthening the General Assembly as the democratic, plenary organ of the United Nations, the Security Council (UNSC) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Mexico will continue to support comprehensive reform of the UNSC and will continue to participate actively and constructively in intergovernmental negotiations on this issue within the General Assembly. Mexico will encourage a substantive discussion based on the compromise proposal for reform of the Council that bridges the various positions and has the broadest possible agreement of the Member States.

This proposal is based only on expanding the non-permanent membership to achieve an equitable geographic representation and a reform of the UNSC's working methods to make them more transparent, effective and efficient. Mexico opposes increasing the number of permanent members of the Council; this would not make the UNSC more democratic, transparent or accountable.

### **Strengthening Coordination of the United Nations' Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance**

Mexico will continue to support the principles that determine how humanitarian aid is given. It will also support renewed and full respect for the work of humanitarian workers and for access to victims. It will also seek to strengthen coordination of humanitarian aid by creating synergies between key humanitarian actors, and will advocate for prevention and emergency preparedness.

With regard to the 2015 World Humanitarian Summit proposed by the UN Secretary-General, Mexico favors comprehensive consultations that take into account the need to make the humanitarian system more effective, to use innovative technologies in the planning process, to evaluate the existing methods of cooperation and to create new methods that help coordinate efforts in a changing environment.

## **First Committee**

### **Disarmament and International Security**

In accordance with its foreign policy principles and the principles of the United Nations Charter, Mexico is one of the strongest supporters of the prohibition and elimination of all weapons that are indiscriminate and inhumane in their effect, as are weapons of mass destruction. Mexico will participate actively in the First Committee discussions, making purposeful, critical and forward-thinking contributions to initiatives seeking general and complete disarmament that are verifiable, transparent and irreversible, as the only way to ensure peace, international security and human security.

#### ***Nuclear Disarmament***

In view of the catastrophic consequences in the aftermath of the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, the first resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly was on nuclear disarmament. Since there are already prohibitions against biological and chemical weapons, Mexico gives the highest priority to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is estimated that there are currently 17,270 nuclear weapons still in existence around the world, of which about 4,400 are on high alert, that is, ready to be detonated<sup>1</sup>. The expense of manufacturing and maintaining nuclear weapons is notoriously disproportionate to what is spent on development. Total military expenditure has reached 1.75 trillion dollars annually. Just nine countries spend 100 billion dollars a year, or almost 300 million dollars a day, on nuclear weapons.

Mexico believes that nuclear weapons should be evaluated from a humanitarian perspective that takes into account both the short- and long-term global effects on the population, health, environment and development. Mexico will hold a second conference on this issue on February 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

For Mexico, the only guarantee that the international community has against the harm, the humanitarian, environmental, food-supply, economical and developmental crises of a nuclear detonation is the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It is therefore essential that 21st-century society understands the devastating short- and long-term damage this type of weapon would cause to humanity, so a preventive approach may prevail and nuclear weapons are never used again.

Mexico will be attentive to proposals that give impetus to the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, which have been paralyzed for 17 years. In 2012, at the initiative of Mexico, Austria and Norway, the UN General Assembly created an Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament for all UN Member States, international organizations and civil society. The Group met three times in Geneva in 2013 and will present its proposals on how to advance the multilateral negotiations to achieve and sustain a world without nuclear weapons.

Mexico will present the following resolutions on this topic:

**“Consolidation of the Regime Established in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Treaty of Tlatelolco).** Mexico presents this resolution every three years. The General Assembly recognizes the historic contribution made by the Treaty of Tlatelolco to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the work done by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**“Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Accelerating the Implementation of the Nuclear Disarmament Commitments.”** This resolution is presented annually by Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa, the members of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC). This is the only resolution in which the General Assembly addresses in detail the commitments adopted by the nuclear-weapons States as part of their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

**“Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”** This is presented annually with Australia and New Zealand. The General Assembly calls for the entrance into force of the CTBT as a key step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

### ***Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)***

---

<sup>1</sup> SIPRI. <http://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2013/06>

Mexico recently reaffirmed its historic position on achieving general and complete disarmament in the world by signing the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. This represents an unprecedented achievement in controlling arms transfers and is the result of complex negotiations begun in 2006, in which Mexico played an active role, pushing for the highest standards for regulating transfers of conventional weapons.

For Mexico, adopting the treaty is only the first step. It signed the ATT on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, the first day it opened for signature, making clear its commitment to fully implement its provisions. The Senate approved ratification of the treaty on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Decree of Approval was published in the Official Journal of the Federation on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Foreign Secretary José Antonio Meade will deposit the instrument of ratification in the United Nations on September 25<sup>th</sup>, presenting at the same time a declaration of provisional implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the treaty until its entry into force in accordance with Article 23 of the ATT.

## Second Committee

### Economic and Financial Affairs

#### *Post-2015 Development Agenda*

At the same time that Mexico has been promoting fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, it has also played a proactive role in designing the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, to ensure that it meets the global needs as well as those of the developing world, and that it promotes sustainable human development in its three key areas, namely the social, economic and environmental spheres.

A series of consultations on various topics was begun in 2012 at the local, regional and international levels by the United Nations, civil society and interested countries. Mexico hosted two regional consultations specifically for stakeholders and civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>2</sup> The results of these two forums contributed to the report<sup>3</sup> of the High-level Panel for the Post-2015 Development Agenda: *“A New Global Partnership: Eradicating Poverty and Transforming Economies through Sustainable Development.”* The panel’s recommendations were reflected in the report presented recently by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that reviewed the MDGs.

Above all, Mexico favors an **inclusion approach** to the new development framework, which should apply to all countries and establish goals that can be adapted to different national realities. The new development framework should be consistent with the commitments previously acquired by the international community in areas such as climate change and health, and its goals should be quantifiable and measureable, with specific deadlines.

It is also important to include all of the development processes in one, single Post-2015 Agenda, with the active participation of all of the stakeholders: the private sector, civil

---

<sup>2</sup> Official site for regional consultations: <http://participacionsocial.sre.gob.mx/post2015.php>

<sup>3</sup> The report of the High-level Panel is only available in English: <http://www.un.org/sg/management/beyond2015.shtml>

society organizations, local governments and academia, among others, as they also have key roles to play.

Mexico recommends that the new development framework includes issues such as energy, international migration, youths and children, and indigenous peoples.

### ***Financing for Development***

Given the new challenges and actors that are part of the current global context, and now that the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)<sup>4</sup> has been strengthened, Mexico will promote a renewed architecture for international development cooperation. In its dual role as both donor and recipient of aid, Mexico will seek to increase both the quantity and quality of South-South cooperation and to maximize the impact of the cooperation it receives.

Another priority is to participate in the design of a new development agenda that will determine the global efforts after 2015. The agenda should be comprehensive and inclusive, and should incorporate both the commitments that will replace the MDGs as well as the agenda of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development from March 2002.

As part of its commitment to coordinate the new actors and the different traditions of cooperation in order to achieve shared but differentiated goals, Mexico will host the first Ministerial-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2014, an initiative that involves a large number of actors, including donor and recipient countries of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

The reduction in Official Development Assistance (ODA) has particularly impacted Middle-Income Countries (MICs)<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, one of Mexico's priorities will be to focus on the needs of the MICs as part of the new architecture of international development. However, it must be said that international aid for MICs must not come at the expense of aid for other categories of countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs)<sup>6</sup>.

### ***Climate Change and Environmental Degradation***

Mexico will continue to play an important role in the discussion on conserving natural capital and environmental goods and services, which are a key part of development and of society's welfare.

Mexico will follow up on the General Assembly resolution "Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations," which should include the results of the most recent major meetings on climate change: the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP18) and the 8th Conference of the Parties

---

<sup>4</sup> Official AMEXCID website: <http://amexcid.gob.mx/>

<sup>5</sup> According to the World Bank, middle-income countries have a gross national product per capita of between USD1,026 and \$12,475 (2011). They represent five of the seven billion people in the world, about one third of global GNP and are the main engine of global growth: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mic/overview>

<sup>6</sup> Least Developed Countries represent the poorest and weakest part of the international community. Currently, there are 48 countries on the United Nations' list of LDCs; they have gross national products per capita of less than USD100, insufficient human resources and fragile economies: <http://www.unohrrls.org/en/ldc/related/59/>.

to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8), both held in Doha, Qatar from November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Mexico will also participate constructively in the debates on implementing the Rio +20 Conference agreements that date from May 2010, and on promoting international cooperation.

Mexico has undertaken to engage in an ongoing dialogue with civil society organizations to enrich its position and create synergies before, during and after each climate change meeting.

In addition, it has included representatives from Mexican civil society organizations in its official delegations and encouraged the participation of civil society in the design of national environmental policies.

### ***Prevention of Natural Disasters***

In light of the many, varied natural disasters that occur year after year in different parts of the world, Mexico will hold to its principle of the importance of taking a preventive and inclusive approach. It will focus on the importance of promoting the six steps for preventing and preparing for disasters issued on May 28, 2013 by the Mexican president on early warning, resilient infrastructure<sup>7</sup>, a culture of prevention, a disaster risk atlas, preparedness and response and coordination at all levels.

Regarding the follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action<sup>8</sup> (2005-2015), Mexico will welcome progress on the consultations and coordination led by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). In addition, as Chair of the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva), it will encourage discussion of the pending issues in the lead up to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. For Mexico, it will be very important to ensure that the agendas on sustainable development, climate change (adaptation) and development include disaster risk reduction because of the intrinsic links between these issues so that the actions taken by the international community are consistent.

### ***Access to Telecommunications Services***

Mexico will promote the importance of public policies that address the digital agenda in order to encourage the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT). ICT contribute to the international, regional and national efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, prevent natural disasters and address emergency situations, in addition to achieving the MDGs in the areas of poverty eradication, childhood education, cybersecurity, health and environmental sustainability. They also contribute to increased productivity, competitiveness, innovation and economic growth, and to more transparency for better government and to moving towards full access for society to the tools of the Information and Knowledge Society and to global integration.

---

<sup>7</sup> Resilience is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology#letter-r>

<sup>8</sup> The HAF are guidelines for implementing measures and actions to reduce disaster risk that were adopted by the United Nations member States in Japan in 2005. Its overarching goal is to make nations and communities more resilient to disasters by 2015.



## Third Committee

### Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues

#### ***Human Rights***

In accordance with its Constitutional mandate, one of the guiding principles of Mexico's foreign policy is respect for and protection and promotion of human rights. Mexico will evaluate the initiatives on national human rights situations presented in the UNGA in this light, promoting an objective approach consistent with the highest standards on this issue.

Mexico will promote a stronger Human Rights Council (HRC), and this is why Mexico presented its candidacy to the Council for the 2014-2016 term, with the goal of encouraging the objective and effective treatment of human rights situations everywhere in the world. Mexico will seek and active and constructive participation in the Council, and the consolidation of the Universal Periodic Review<sup>9</sup> as the most effective tool of meeting States' needs with the tools of the HRC, as well as promoting the complementarity of efforts between the HRC and the UNGA to adequately address the Human rights agenda.

#### ***Migration***

Mexico, as country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, participates actively in multilateral debates, contributing our view and experiences, as well as encouraging the discussion of issues that demand commitment from governments, international organizations and civil society to respond the challenges of international migration, with an approach of respect for the human rights, focused on people who migrate, particularly most vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Mexico will participate in the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Insisting on the need to achieve a higher commitment and leadership from the UN and its agencies in order to make clear progress on this important issue and its inclusion in the international agenda as a cross-cutting issue, Mexico will present again a resolution titled "Protection of Migrants", that will reflect these developments and will seek to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, without prejudice to their migratory status.

#### ***Indigenous Peoples***

Mexico supports strengthening the United Nations mechanisms for indigenous issues, such as the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples; ECOSOC's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and the HRC's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Wanting to contribute to the international human rights system, especially regarding the rights of the indigenous peoples, Mexico has proposed holding a meeting to prepare for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 for governments and indigenous peoples to exchange views on promoting the rights of this population, strengthening attention to this

---

<sup>9</sup> Mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council that examines the human rights situations in the 192 member States of the United Nations.



issue in the United Nations and including the indigenous agenda on the post-2015 development agenda.

### ***Persons with Disabilities***

In keeping with Mexico's commitment and leadership in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities at the international level, our country will play an active and committed role in the General Assembly's High-level Meeting on Disability and the MDGs to be held on September 23th, 2013 in New York.

Mexico will also promote the human rights approach of people with disabilities within the framework of the final document of the High-level Meeting, as well as a particular attention to women and children with disabilities.

### ***Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism***

Mexico strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and considers that the obligation of the State to promote the protection of human rights while countering terrorism is a principle and a vehicle to ensure the efficacy and legitimacy of measures to fight terrorism.

Mexico presents annually the resolution "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism" which will include recent developments in this field that represent reasons for international concern.

### ***The World Drug Problem***

Remaining true to our tradition and belief in multilateralism and international cooperation, at the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, **as it does each year, Mexico will present a resolution on "International Cooperation against the World Drug Problem,"** again endorsing our country's commitment to addressing the challenges inherent in the illegal trafficking and use of drugs in a comprehensive, balanced fashion, under the principle of common and shared responsibility.

The version of this resolution that was adopted in 2012 includes a mandate to hold a special session of the General Assembly in early 2016, with the purpose of having an open and inclusive debate on the alternatives available for effectively addressing the world drug problem in a comprehensive way.

Mexico will evaluate internationally agreed policies, seeking the most effective response in terms of health, respect for human rights and harm reduction. The goal must be the wellbeing of society, in all of its aspects. Priority will be given to preventive measures that seek to reduce health risks and, above all, reduce the social violence related to the drug problem. Along the same lines, Mexico will strengthen international cooperation to reduce the illicit flow of weapons and money to the criminal networks.

There is a general mood of expectation about the preparations for this special session in that it will constitute an excellent opportunity to discuss—at the highest possible level—the

world drug problem. This serious and inclusive debate will be informed by the results of the high-level review that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will conduct in March 2014.

## **Fourth Committee**

### **Special Political and Decolonization Committee**

#### ***Peacekeeping Operations***

Mexico values and supports Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) as the instrument of the UN to provide support to countries that are experiencing or have experienced conflict to establish the conditions needed for a lasting peace through reconstruction, humanitarian assistance and security.

Although Mexico does not contribute either civilian or military personnel to the PKOs, it is important to continue the domestic reflections and training in these issues. Mexico will be active during the sessions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), stressing the importance of having clear and suitable mandates for the needs and developments of the location where each mission is deployed; that they have appropriate hand-over and withdrawal strategies and that they are guaranteed resources that are sufficient for the performance of their respective tasks.

#### ***Special Political Missions***

Mexico will continue to impulse the political discussion on the nature, evolution and current role of the Special Political Missions (SPM) within the structure of the United Nations as a tool for ensuring peace and international security. The goal of such a discussion should be greater transparency of the SPMs' operation and financing to make them more efficient and effective in fulfilling their mandates.

Mexico will promote a new draft resolution during the 68th UNGA, which might include the following topics: i) recommendations on better evaluating the start of a PKO and its requirements; ii) assessments to measure a mission's success; iii) exit or withdrawal strategy and improving coordination with other peacekeeping efforts.

## **Fifth Committee**

### **Administrative and Budgetary Affairs**

#### ***Budgetary Rationale***

Mexico, as a country with global responsibility, will encourage the efficient and effective use of the UN's financial and human resources in a context of transparency and accountability, while respecting the organization's mandates and the national priorities as set forth in the 2013-2018 National Development Plan.

Analyzing and discussing the UN's ordinary budget for the 2014-2015 period will be a priority during the main segment of the 68th General Assembly. The aim is to avoid having

budgetary restrictions affect programs of interest for Mexico, the 14<sup>th</sup> contributor to the United Nations.

Programs with broad scopes and high financial costs such as the Capital Master Plan and Infrastructure Upgrade and the Strategic Heritage Plan for Renovation of the *Palais de Nations*, the UN's Geneva headquarters, will be the focus of the debates in the Fifth Committee because of their financial implications for the Member States. In these discussions, Mexico will call for implementation of these plans in the short term, according to what is agreed by the members.

Mexico will continue to promote separating the Special Political Missions from the UN's ordinary budget and creating a special account to finance them, according to the scale of assessments used for the Peacekeeping Operations. This is due to the nature of the SPMs and to the fact that they originate in the Security Council.

## **Sixth Committee**

### **Legal Affairs**

#### ***The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels***

Since 2006, and at the initiative of Mexico and Liechtenstein, the Sixth Committee has included the item "The rule of law at the national and international levels" on its agenda. This year, the debate in the Sixth Committee on this issue will focus on the sub-topic of "The rule of law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes" as determined by the last resolution on the issue adopted in 2012.

Mexico actively promotes the work done by the United Nations to strengthen the rule of law at both the international and national levels. In 2012, during the 67<sup>th</sup> UNGA, the Secretary-General designated Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, then Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Representative of Denmark, as co-facilitators for the negotiations on the Declaration of the High-level Meeting on "The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels."

In reference to the sub-topic that will be addressed this year, the Declaration reaffirms "the duty of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means such as negotiation, investigation, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement or other peaceful means of their choice" (paragraph 4).

At the international level, the UN is recognized for its work in promoting the rule of law through assistance and cooperation, strategic partnerships and the codification and progressive evolution of international law, and supports its enforcement. Mexico commends the dialogue and coordination carried out in the UN's various areas and agencies, including those related to the rule of law, development and justice.

Regarding the peaceful settlement of international disputes, Mexico acknowledges and supports the vitally important contribution of mediation and of the international courts, such as the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, among others, in promoting and strengthening the rule of law. Mexico also supports the work done by the International Criminal Court and the international and hybrid criminal

courts to combat impunity and contribute to improving accountability for those committing international crimes.

Mexico believes it is important for States to take suitable and sufficient steps to implement international law, thus promoting the rule of law at the national level. We specifically stress the importance of legislative harmonization and of institutional strengthening, especially of the national justice systems, in order to achieve this.

### ***Terrorism***

Mexico will renew its commitment to continuing its work to prevent and combat international terrorism, its financing, and its ties with emerging threats, through cooperation and by taking steps that address its underlying causes while respecting human rights, the rights of refugees and international humanitarian law.

Mexico will also highlight the importance of treating this evil in a consistent fashion within the UN and will stress the progress made in implementing UNSC Resolution 1540 (2005) which obligates States to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems, and to establish adequate domestic controls over related materials in order to prevent illicit trafficking, as well as the outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism that was held last May 23-24 in Mexico City.

Regarding the negotiation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, Mexico will reiterate its support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for drafting the convention and its decision to create a Working Group to finalize the project.

### **Final Message**

Mexico will participate in the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly with the will and capabilities to act responsibly in view of the global challenges facing humanity. Mexico will renew its commitment to the core values that have shaped the United Nations.

Mexico will seek that, through the UN and within the framework of international law, the community of nations attains international peace and security. It will continue to seek general and complete nuclear disarmament.

Mexico aspires to full respect for human rights in all countries without exception. Mexico obligations within the international human rights system will not recede. Mexico has strongly embraced national policies designed to ensure that the fundamental rights of Mexicans are protected and to consolidate a truly democratic culture.

The fact that three conditions—poverty, inequality and social exclusion—persist tell us that development is not always inclusive. It is precisely for this reason that Mexico, during this session of the General Assembly, will stress the importance of putting “inclusion” at the center of the global reflection on the development agenda.

Mexico will be vigilant in promoting development and ensuring that international cooperation reaches the highest levels ever known. Preparations based on a participatory and inclusive process are underway for a post-2015 development agenda, and this is

already good news for the international community. This process exercise, which from its very beginning has been exemplary, should eliminate inequalities and eradicate extreme poverty in the coming years.

Mexico will play an active role in the search for common solutions to shared challenges in order to exclude those who would harm citizens and their institutions. Mexico will seek that trade in small arms and light weapons and ammunition is done in a responsible manner without endangering public safety and peace.

Mexico is a country that wields and will wield its global responsibility by respecting and championing the most just causes of humanity.