

MEXICO



Statement by the Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Mexico,
Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbez,
in the general debate of the
fifty-ninth Session of the
United Nations
General Assembly

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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO, DR. LUIS
ERNESTO DERBEZ,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF MEXICO, IN THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIFTY NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL**

In Mexico's view, our guiding purpose should not be to rebuild the Organization from scratch. Nor should it be to discard the United Nations Charter, with its rich heritage of agreements and deep rooted concepts. It would not be responsible to abandon altogether fundamental concepts such as the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense, as set out in Article 51 of the Charter or for that matter the notion of a collective security system. The only feasible, realistic and necessary approach is to bring up to date this multilateral system of

The General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council must work as part of a functional system, and not as entities which are disconnected and sometimes even contradictory in their tasks, priorities, and methods of work.

The predominance that the Security Council has attained, has rendered in a growing disregard and inefficacy of the work of other principal organs. Therefore, issues that have been marginalized but reach certain levels of crisis, automatically become matters under the responsibility of the Security Council itself. We must acknowledge that the process of reform as a whole, has been dominated and in fact paralyzed, as a result of the debate about Security Council reform.

Mexico believes that any process of reform of the Security Council shall be governed by a set of common objectives and criteria applicable to all. After more than a decade of work, we should ask ourselves why it is that the Security Council reform has not succeeded. The debate has focused on the number of seats, how they should be allocated to each region, and whether they should have permanent status or not. Paradoxically, the fundamental questions that have largely been ignored are what kind of collective security system is needed by today's international community; and what mechanisms should be used in order to face the new challenges and to prevent conflict

It should be stressed that the Security Council must develop a better capacity to prevent the emergence of conflicts, particularly through building and consolidating national institutions and upholding the rule of law and the respect for Human Rights. The Council should also enhance its capacity as an early warning system to identify situations likely to endanger peace and security. As a logical consequence of this analysis, we will identify the modifications that the Security Council needs.

Mexico acknowledges the contributions of different Member States to the cause of peace: all of them are necessary. Our organization, based on the legal equality of States, requires the commitment and support of all its members, through their involvement in decision making. The creation of new permanent seats, would lead to an even greater concentration in the international decision making process. We cannot ignore that Permanent Members already have more influence in this regard than the rest of the membership. This should be restricted and not further encouraged.

Mexico supports collective decision making, as the source of the legitimacy and efficacy of our actions in favor of peace and security. For this reason, we are for an equitable and balanced regional enlargement of the number of elected members, based on modalities determined within the regional groups. This will stimulate a wider participation in the process of decision making, in order for more countries — not less — to contribute with their views in this body.

Thus, Mexico would support an increase in the number of elected members, and an extension of their term, with the option of immediate reelection for those States that have demonstrated through their performance, a strong commitment with the purposes of the Organization. This

would entail a genuine mechanism for the accountability of the Members of the Security Council, based on Article 24 of the Charter.

As a part of this integral vision of the reform, it is critical to strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to allow it to support the Security Council and the General Assembly in the decision making process. Conflict prevention depends upon timely attention and action to problems resulting from the lack of development. It is undeniable that peace and security are anchored on the wellbeing of our peoples. Therefore, we believe that the ECOSOC could work as a coordinating body that is able to steer the financing of development, and the effective follow up of the commitments stemming from the United Nations Summits and Conferences on social and economic development.

It is essential to have a more committed involvement of the international financial institutions in the development process. In this regard, ECOSOC should have a pivotal role linking the efforts of the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO, the private sector and civil society.

Another issue that should be among our priorities is the Human Rights Commission, which has essential responsibilities in the universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Mexico considers that the work of the Commission is vital, although its weakness to advance its objectives is quite noticeable. For this reason, its methods must be urgently revised and reformulated. Mexico is fostering the dialogue on this issue within our region.

Mr. President,

The ongoing effort in favor of the UN reform requires a vision of the collective wellbeing, as well as an enhanced political understanding, in order to prevent that the so called "non passport threats" dive the world into a spiral of confrontation, violence and despair.

In this regard, we should recognize that the UN has already taken some actions as first steps in the right direction. This has been done particularly in the fight against terrorism and the non

the light of the recent and most regretful humanitarian tragedies, it is of the utmost importance for the General Assembly to discuss this concept thoroughly, in order to elaborate guidelines for its practical application within the Organization.

Mr. President,

In the light of the scope of the challenge of the reform that we have ahead, Mexico would favor calling for a general conference with the aim of updating and strengthening our Organization. In contrast to the consideration that has been given to other issues of international relevance, such as commerce, population, or the environment; we have not held any broad rounds of negotiation in the last six decades on issues pertaining to international politics and the development of diplomacy. The changes that have taken place in the World in that period, demand a comprehensive exercise that should encompass the renewal of our commitments, and the review of the structure and the performance of the collective security and development system.

Throughout President Fox's Administration, Mexico has clearly shown its commitment to the strengthening of multilateralism. We have done so as an elected Member of the Security Council; as a promoter of international conventions on topics such as corruption, persons with disabilities, and migrant workers; by furthering initiatives to foster the equitable and sustainable development of the global commons; or by hosting high level conferences such as the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the Summit of the Americas, the Summit of the Latin American and Caribbean Group with the European Union, and the APEC Summit.

Furthermore, as an unequivocal sign of our interest, our concerns and our commitment, Mexico decisively promotes the renovation of the multilateral system, through the Group of Friends of the United Nations Reform.

Mexico participates in this session of the General Assembly in keeping with this constructive spirit. We are certain that under your able leadership, Mr. Chairman, this session will be remembered as the catalyst of one of the most important and transcendental chapters in the life of the Organization .

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.