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**INTERVENCION DE
S.E. MICHELLE BACHELET
PRESIDENTA DE LA REPUBLICA DE CHILE**

**DEBATE GENERAL
SEXAGESIMO NOVENO PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA
ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

NUEVA YORK, 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2014

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MICHELLE BACHELET
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE**

**GENERAL DEBATE
SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr. President,

As the twentieth century drew to a close, we imagined that the twenty-first century would bring more progress and peace for all, avoiding a repetition of the tragedies that have shaken the world. And, yes, we have seen some hopeful signs of development. But, paradoxically, all around are the symptoms of crises. More localized, it's true, but with devastating humanitarian consequences. These include regional wars, ethnic and religious tensions, humanitarian crises, break-up of some States, climate change, greater inequalities and cross-border terrorism, among other challenges.

This instability and lack of social cohesion poses a threat to peace, security, human rights, development and democracy. In other words, it threatens everything that we believe in and that forms the basis of the agreement, which gave rise to the United Nations and the very reason why we are leaders. This Organization therefore continues to be the irreplaceable forum for tackling global challenges and agreeing on actions to solve them, even when some of these actions have not produced the desired results.

The Security Council has helped to address and prevent crises. One response has been the organization of robust peacekeeping operations, with strong emphasis on the protection of civilians. But on many occasions, regrettably, the Council has not been able to reach agreement on action. This undoubtedly undermines the legitimacy and credibility of the principal organ responsible for international peace and security.

This year has seen a major increase in humanitarian crises all over the world, and in particular in complex emergencies, which have a regional impact indirectly affecting already fragile countries.

We are concerned about the three million refugees created by the crisis in Syria. About the action of terrorist groups such as ISIS. About the cruel violence that the world has witnessed in Gaza. We feel for the victims and categorically condemn the use of violence. We believe that the international community should seek political solutions and inclusive negotiations to facilitate action by the Security Council. For our part, we are prepared to increase our humanitarian commitments and shall consider accepting refugees from these conflict zones.

We are also concerned about the situation in Ukraine. Here the position of Chile is clear: we believe in the need to respect the principle of territorial integrity and, at the same time, to protect the rights of minorities. We believe that a solution can be found to prevent an escalation of violence, sanctions and tensions that may spread well beyond the countries concerned.

In this regard, we wish to reaffirm our belief in the need to respect the integrity of state borders. International law is clear and unambiguous. Any action designed to affect boundary treaties in force creates room for legal uncertainty. This would be a very negative precedent that could affect international peace and stability.

We continue to believe that reform of the United Nations Security Council is a pending issue requiring political decision and action. Chile favors a serious debate on the French proposal to limit the right of veto in the case of crimes involving the responsibility to protect. In addition, we reiterate our support for enlargement of the Council and for the aspiration of Germany, Brazil, Japan and India to become permanent members.

Mr. President,

We acknowledge the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve more inclusive global governance in which the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals occupy a central place and require the political support of governments and societies in all regions.

The post-2015 process provides a great opportunity to tackle the social and development issues common to all societies and regions, using an all-embracing approach, through specific and measurable goals.

Women, peace and security are a priority issue for Chile on the Security Council agenda. Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the world has made progress in the protection of women and girls in armed conflicts.

Our efforts to empower women and promote initiatives to combat violence against women and girls have been tireless. As a result, today women are at the center of the new development and peace architecture. We believe that the full incorporation of women in society in all its facets, in the economy, in politics and in culture is a prerequisite for full development and should therefore also be a priority in the post-2015 agenda.

Mr. President,

I come from Latin America, a region of middle-income countries that has its own dreams, challenges and tasks. For us, sustainable development, security, quality of governance and, above all, inequality and social cohesion are the most pressing problems. And we want these challenges also to figure on the post-2015 development agenda, which must be inclusive and reflect the situation in all regions of the world.

We believe that inequality is one of the greatest threats to development and international security, because it fosters social unrest and prevents us all from moving towards inclusive development, ending exclusion and poverty, which in turn can lead to resentment and violence.

It should therefore occupy a central place among the post-2015 development goals. We believe that the United Nations system should also have tools for measuring specific progress in a universal agenda to combat inequality.

This is also a challenge for Chile, one we are dealing with decisively and with long-term vision. Today in Chile there is a general belief in the need for change and change specifically designed to substantially improve equity and inclusion.

Chile has made great progress, which we would like to strengthen and advance upon in the future. Our society has undergone profound and rapid changes that pose new challenges.

Public opinion and political evolution tell us that the time has come to take meaningful steps through substantive reforms providing the essential basis for movement towards more dynamic, inclusive and fairer development. This is a basic condition for moving toward a better society for all.

We have already adopted a tax reform to ensure fiscal sustainability and the necessary resources for implementation of an education reform ensuring that quality education is provided without cost, as well as opportunities for all. Chile will not achieve development while dragging the burden of inequality. We all know this. And for this reason the tax reform has received crosscutting support.

We are also introducing long awaited political reforms to enhance democracy and institutional legitimacy. We already adopted legislation allowing Chileans residing abroad to vote. Progress is being

made on reform to alter the electoral system by eliminating existing bias and motivating citizens to participate, since now every vote will count. And we want to move towards a new Constitution with fully democratic foundations and content.

We launched a productivity and growth agenda to stimulate the economy and to promote sustainable development; a basic prerequisite for reducing inequality and enhancing opportunities.

Ultimately, we want to upgrade the right to have rights and improve upon them, in line with our enhanced capability as a country.

Mr. President,

Climate change aggravates inequalities and multiplies threats. There is a collective duty to act.

Chile is convinced that Latin America has a big contribution to make to this debate. Climate change aggravates inequalities because it affects above all the most vulnerable. Chile has only a marginal effect on the problem, since it accounts for only 0.25 per cent of carbon emissions, but it does suffer the consequences. And we therefore want to be part of the solution.

We voluntarily made a commitment to reduce our emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. Like Chile, several other Latin American countries have made similar voluntary commitments. We should like to propose here that these mechanisms should be subject to some mechanism of accountability, which would facilitate compliance and set an example for the countries lagging behind.

This Organization must ensure the efficiency and consistency of multilateralism as a special forum for tackling the major global issues in an inclusive manner, creating international regimes and promoting cooperation arrangements in priority areas for our peoples.

Our country trusts multilateralism and we believe that participating in the system involves both rights and responsibilities. Because we want to contribute to the solution of global problems, we are members of the Security Council and of the Human Rights Council; we aspire to membership in the Economic and Social Council and we are contributing to peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). This effort, in which we are engaged with a number of Latin American countries, is a specific action of solidarity to support the democratic consolidation of a sister country.

We believe that it is a political imperative to strengthen multilateralism in three fundamental aspects.

The first is enhancement of the Secretary-General's ability to take the initiative. In the context of the functions envisaged in the Charter, it is essential to continue support for the political leadership of the Secretary-General to take preventive action and respond to urgent situations jeopardizing the dignity of persons and international peace and security.

The second aspect is fieldwork. The ability of the system to take action in the field is a basic prerequisite in order for this Organization to be relevant to people's demands and real problems.

As Executive director of UN-Women, I had the privilege of seeing the conviction, solidarity and dedication with which UN staff help to promote the ideals, principles and mandates of the system. Without this work, the political decisions would be meaningless.

The third aspect concerns development and cooperation. The process of constructing a post-2015 development agenda requires renewed efforts to provide official development assistance and to promote

innovative financing mechanisms, encouraging partnerships between countries, international bodies, civil society and the private sector.

Chile is interested in a greater coordination of initiatives and instruments to facilitate South-South cooperation by middle-income countries, in ways in which their essential contribution can be made effective.

In this regard, I wish to mention that in Chile we have enacted legal provisions to fully open our economy to imports from the 48 least developed countries, without duties or quotas.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate the irrevocable commitment to actions by the United Nations made by successive democratic governments of Chile. Such actions reflect universal principles and values, since they promote protection of the dignity and fundamental rights of all individuals and contribute to crisis prevention, dialogue, reconciliation and post-conflict management.

Our convictions and efforts will always be aimed at enhancing the legitimacy of collective action to meet people's concerns and demands.

We believe that, with an effective and real effort on the part of the international community, we shall be able successfully to deal with crises and, most importantly, to build a world in which all inhabitants can live together in peace and dignity.

I thank you.