



República del Paraguay

Intervención en nombre de la República del Paraguay

***Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas para la Adopción de la Agenda para
el Desarrollo Después de 2015***

***Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República del Paraguay
Don Horacio CARTES***

Nueva York, 27 de setiembre de 2015

Statement of the Republic of Paraguay

***United Nations Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015
Development Agenda***

His Excellency Mr. Horacio CARTES

President of the Republic of Paraguay

New York, 27 September, 2015

Mr. Chair, Heads of State and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The adoption of the 203 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents the beginning of an ambitious roadmap for countries, in the fight against poverty, aiming to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, particularly those living in vulnerable situations.

One of our government's public policy priorities is the fight against poverty. We have made progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted in 2000.

Since the adoption of these international agreed commitments, with effort and perseverance, we have reduced to more than 50% the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. However, we keep pushing and focusing our efforts on rural areas where the differences are even greater.

Our main goal as a government is to ensure food security for our population, in order to completely eradicate malnutrition.

We are aware that there is a direct relationship between education and development. In this context, we have achieved the universalization and consolidation of primary education, and our country will soon meet the goal of 100% (a hundred percent) coverage.

The entry into force of a recent law regarding school nutrition and sanitary control has allowed us to galvanize remarkable changes in public policies, like the incorporation of nutritional education and the promotion of family agriculture through simplified purchases.

The total investment destined towards the school food program rises up to 95 million dollars and benefits with breakfasts and snacks to 90% of the student body and through school lunches to 15%.

We are creating a new awareness among our population, mainly children; an example of this is the drawing, that I am sharing with you, of the Paraguayan winner of the regional contest "Feed the world" organized by the World Food Programme.

We are aware that there is a direct link between education and development. In this context, we have achieved the universalization and consolidation of primary education and our country will soon achieve the goal of full coverage.

In 2014 youth literacy rates were already above the 98% and in this sense we are just one-step from universal literacy, with equity by gender, area of residence and poverty condition.

Significant progress can also be observed in the coverage and the reduction of gaps per gender, and for example I would like to point out the increase of female participation, from 8 to 17% in the national leadership in the last 15 years.

With regards to children mortality under 5 years, by maintaining the downward trend in recent periods, we will achieve the expected goal.

By the end of 2013, assisted birth delivery in health service centers has increased to 96.2% on average at country level.

Since June last year, our Government, with the support of UNICEF, has been carrying out a project called "*Zero avoidable death*". In that context, maternal deaths were reduced to 33.6% and 2% of the neo natal death in the first year of work, through sustained training of public health staff.

We are satisfied to announce that Paraguay has reached the Millennium Development Goals related to access to systems of water supply and sanitation.

The Paraguayan financial system has been consolidated in recent years and maintains adequate solvency and capitalization ratios. There has been a gradual increase in the access to credit for small farmers.

The achievement of the monetary policies of Paraguay has resulted in the lowest levels of inflation in Latin America. This factor, among others, allows Paraguay to have one of the fastest growing Gross Domestic Products in the region.

According to a 2014 CEPAL report, Paraguay is the second Latin American country with highest rates of Foreign Direct Investment.

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals contributes to improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of our country and of our future generations.

We know we still have much to do, but it is good to see that we are heading in the right direction. At this moment our government would like to express our commitment with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 with the main objective of the ensuring the welfare of the entire population. Solidarity and international cooperation are essential for all nations of the world to achieve a harmonious, peaceful, respectful, fair and inclusive coexistence.

We know that the Sustainable Goals that will approve in this Summit are ambitious and pose a challenge to the international community. But if we achieve the international, regional and national political consensus, these objectives and goals are fully achievable.

The implementation and strengthening of public policies, as well as the allocation of resources with timely rationality are essential. In this context, we must work to achieve an efficient investment of public money by installing transparent implementation mechanisms and accountability.

We must not ignore the fervent cry of our mother earth to preserve the environment. Climate change is a global issue and a central challenge for all governments and people in the world.

Excellences, Heads of State and of Government:

The Republic of Paraguay welcomes the holding of this Summit, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Organization.

One of the key points of the Agenda 2030 is the case of countries in special conditions. In that regard, the international community has pledged to take concrete actions to overcome the obstacles of landlocked developing countries.

The Agenda will be transformative for these countries, to the extent that their specific needs and challenges are incorporated in the work programs of relevant international organizations, international financial institutions and particularly in the transit countries. We are convinced that from these difficulties can also emerge new possibilities, in particular in areas of infrastructure, logistics and integration.

I have the satisfaction of mentioning the "***Declaration of Asuncion on Development with Social Inclusion***", which is now in being implemented, was approved at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in year 2014, in my country.

The Government of Paraguay is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and it subjects to procedures for monitoring and review, at national, regional and global levels, which will help to be inclusive, transparent, rigorous and based on serious, reliable and timely information.

In times of great challenges is when we embrace the fundamental Values and Principles, and never forget that the rationale or the reason to exist of the governments must be people with their profound dignity.

Consecrating the common wellness as the ultimate goal of our efforts, we will honor our people and prepare the way for generations to come.

May God bless all of us.

Thank you.