



MISION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

**SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT ON THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**STATEMENT OF
H.E. MR. SALVADOR SANCHEZ CEREN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
EL SALVADOR**

check against delivery

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

Speech of the President of the Republic of El Salvador, H.E. Salvador Sanchez Cerén, in the occasion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

New York, September 25, 2015

Thank you, Excellencies,

Esteemed representatives of the countries of the world,

For El Salvador, this Summit, which will define the destiny of humanity, takes place in a special year, the year of the beatification of our Archbishop Martyr Mr. Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

The beatification of this universal voice accompanies the objectives of this world gathering, Monsignor Romero worked and offered his life for the ideals of justice and human dignity that we propose to ourselves today.

Friends,

Let the message of bravery and peace of blessed Romero guide us also in this Summit and may it drive us to construct the well-being and happiness of the planet.

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I would like to express that we feel honored to be part of this historic moment for humanity.

Today, we begin a new era where we commit ourselves to leave no one behind, committing to a universal Sustainable Development Agenda.

We start from the big efforts made to reach the Millennium Development Goals, which allowed for substantial progress, but could not be fulfilled worldwide.

In El Salvador, we made substantial progress towards achieving the MDGs, despite the enormous environmental and economic difficulties we have to face.

Droughts, earthquakes, and tropical storms like 12E have caused damages equivalent to four percent of our GDP in 2011.

Nevertheless, El Salvador has taken important steps during the last years to address and improve social issues. We also accomplished most of the indicators set out in the MDGs.

Since 2009, we decided to make social matters the main priority of the State, implementing public policies aimed at improving social, economic and educational inclusion, citizen security, and environmental protection.

At the beginning of my administration, in 2014, we strengthened the capacity of the State to accomplish its social responsibilities, and a system of environmental protection, as well as the gradual recovery of ecosystems.

We consolidated the basis of a Universal Social Protection System, with an emphasis in policies and strategies for vulnerable groups, and the betterment of infrastructure and basic services.

It fills us with pride to be able to tell the world that now in El Salvador all students attending public schools receive free school supplies, uniforms, shoes and food.

We have achieved the universality of public health services, now our people receive these with quality and kindness.

In 2012, we exceeded the goal of reducing the number of households living under extreme poverty.

For 2013, the primary education coverage was 93 percent, and with the commitment of thousands of young volunteers, we worked to eliminate illiteracy.

El Salvador surpassed the goals of reduction of maternal mortality, homes with access to drinkable water, and of gender equality and women empowerment.

We will continue to accomplish these agreed development goals and the new goals that we adopt today.

The Five-Year Plan for Development (2014-2019), inspired by the model of Good Living, sets in practice our conviction to govern with the people, turning all of our capacities of public management to the improvement of the wellbeing and tranquility of the Salvadorians people.

The main goal of Good Living is to demonstrate that it is possible to build a fraternal life, where all the sectors contribute and enjoy economic growth, in a harmonious relationship between human beings and nature.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15 years from the commitments made at the Summit of the Millennium, it is now the opportune time to empower ourselves of good practices, lessons learned and to quantify the advancements achieved due to the policies and strategies implemented by our countries.

The challenges continue to be to fight against poverty, narrow down the gaps between the developing and developed countries, and to eliminate social inequalities.

Humanity lives various transformations in all areas, and the consensus between countries grows that development should place the human being, at all times, as the central axis and end result of its objectives.

On the basis of the painful experience of wars and conflicts that many countries have suffered, we must assume with responsibility and bravery the commitment with life and the consolidation of peace.

Life on the planet with all its biological and cultural diversity continues to be in danger, Mother Nature complains to us for the centuries of mistreatment to which we have submitted her.

This Summit presents itself as an opportunity without precedents, considering that the document that we will adopt, was constructed with the contributions of all the countries and counted with an active participation of civil society.

We are presented with the opportunity to decide by consensus, a new path to improve the life of our peoples.

Let us take advantage of this opportunity.

A new path of focused global action opens up to humanity to defeat poverty, hunger, to flourish prosperity, inclusion, social and economic participation, and to construct the Good Living in our common house.

Experience has shown that in order to reach sustainable development, it is fundamental that the international community addresses equality between countries and generations, respecting national sovereignty and the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the vulnerabilities and country specific problems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We know that for the fulfillment of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is vital to construct a new model of international cooperation, broaden South-South Cooperation, and change the current structure of financing for development.

It is necessary that the revision of the system of financing for development be based on an integral and plural vision, with the goal of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Similarly, it is imperative that developing countries be duly represented in the process of revision of the structure of the financial system, participation of developing countries at the time of defining and establishing international norms, as well as in the decision-making process is a must.

Mister President,

El Salvador welcomes with pleasure the establishment, within the Post-2015 Development Agenda, of the mechanism for the facilitation of technology, and the Working Group of the United Nations on science, technology and innovation, as well as an annual forum of collaboration in these fields and an online platform.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of El Salvador carries out the Five-Year Plan for development on the basis of the spirit expressed at the Summit of the Millennium in 2000.

In order to achieve this plan, El Salvador counts on the valuable support and accompaniment of friends and strategic partners, with whom we implement projects of great impact such as Ciudad Mujer (City of Women), FOMILENIO II, Generacion de Energia limpia (Clean Energy Generation) and la Ciudad de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (City of Children and Adolescents).

In addition, the Program Una niña, Un niño, Una computadora (A Girl, a Boy, a Computer), and many more in the areas of health, citizen security, justice, social inclusion, and in the strengthening of dialogue and national understanding are key to deepening democracy.

I am especially thankful for the support that contributes to the sustainable development of my country.

We hope to continue with your invaluable contribution to guarantee the fulfillment of this Agenda for Development towards 2030.

The fulfillment of the Agenda for Sustainable Development will only be possible by the structuring and practicing of a system that is multilateral, democratic, participative, equitable, and transparent and that is based in common but differentiated responsibilities.

I am convinced that only by uniting willpowers, capabilities and resources can we reach the Objectives and established goals for the next fifteen years.

To conclude, I wish to highlight that the commitments that we assume today do not only correspond to the future generations, it is also an obligation of the present generation.

We need to act now to settle the pending debt with the present generations that have suffered the consequences of wars, forced migrations, financial crises, the effects of climate change, delinquent violence, and other setbacks.

Let the message of encouragement of this Summit reach with concrete actions even the last of those brothers and sisters that we are now committing not to leave behind.

I invite you to walk in unison, courage, and hope, and without hesitation, from words to actions.

That is what is expected of us, from our countries.

Thank you