



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ECUADOR TO THE
UNITED NATIONS



**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
EXCELLENCY RAFAEL CORREA**

**HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE 62
PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS**

New York, September 24th, 2007

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies:

Please, allow me to express, in the name of the people of Ecuador and of my Government, our satisfaction for the accomplishment of the present high-level Dialogue on Climate Change and to augur the best of the successes to all the Members States in the conclusions that are adopted during the development of such an important Meeting.

The dialogue that today brings us together is a clear sign of that the Climate Change has stopped being an initiator's worry, and it happens to be a worry at the Highest Political level. In this measure, a commitment to offset the Climate Change forces us to a serious reflection on the actual model of development.

Climate Change does not have borders; nevertheless it is necessary to underline that its distribution and impacts are inequitable. Whereas an average US citizen generates six tons of carbon per year and an average European citizen generates near 3 tons per year, the world average of emission of carbon per capita approaches 1.3 tons per year, with a great asymmetry. This is a reality that establishes with clarity where the major responsibilities reside in the affectation to the environment and to the life of the planet.

This situation does not pretend to disown the increasing emissions of some developing countries, but to demonstrate that the present model of growth, based on the intensive use of fossil fuel and in the over consumption, it is an untenable model whose benefits reach to a "privileged" minority of the modern society, but that enormously harms all of us.

In the last years, the climate disasters have cost the life of more than 3 million people in the world, 800 million victims and immediate damages that surpass the

23,000 million dollars. Of these damages, 90% have happened in the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Ecuador is a marginal country in terms of emissions (less of 1% of the world-wide total), but in which the impacts of the Climate Change could cause the gradual transformation of tropical forests on savannahs; the replacement of semi-arid vegetation in barren; a significant loss of the biodiversity; and the backward movement of glaciers and changes in the precipitation regime with potential impacts in the availability of water for human consumption.

The measures of adaptation to the Climate Change represent a heavy burden on the budgets of developing countries that could ascend to 40,000 million dollars, according to the studies of the World Bank. We do not need loans to execute the adaptation. That would increase the burden of our external debt. What we need is the compensation for the damages caused by the out of proportion amount of historical and current emissions of greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. In other words, the inequality in the origin and the distribution of the effects of the global warming can not be inadvertent on this Climate Change Debate.

Nevertheless, Ecuador is arranged to enormous sacrifices, with justice and creativity, to resist the global warming. The Initiative of the Ecuadorian Government to maintain crude of oil ITT underground, - reserve that is located in an ecological zone highly sensible called Yasuní-, means the commitment of not exploiting near 920 million petroleum barrels and therefore, conserve one of the most bio divers regions of the world. Nevertheless, this will imply not to receive enormous investments and loose near 720 million dollars on investments per year, this is a very significant amount for a small country of 13 million habitants and around 6 million in poverty. We are arranged to make this immense sacrifice, but demanding co responsibility from the international community and a minimum compensation for the environmental goods that we generate and from which all the planet benefits.

The model Yasuni'-ITT, fostered by the Ecuadorian government, will prevent the emission of around 111 million tons of carbon produced by burning oil. The cost of opportunity for Ecuador for not exploiting the crude is at least of 10 to 15 dollars per barrel. Nevertheless, Ecuador requests to the Humanity a small contribution of 5 dollars per barrel, to conserve the biodiversity, to protect the indigenous population, who lives in the area on a voluntary isolation and to prevent carbon dioxide emissions. The total amount we request is of approximately 4.600 million dollars. This would be an extraordinary example of world-wide collective action to reduce the global warming in benefit of the entire planet.

Mr. Chairman,

Our proposal also includes the establishment of the Yasuni-ITT Environmental Fund, oriented to the fulfillment of the National Plan of Development, that it includes, among others, the diversification of energy sources, the development of capacities and investments in eco-tourism and the application of an integral agenda that includes health, education and environmental remediation.

In addition to the technical and economic sustenance, the Ecuadorian proposal seeks to transform the old conceptions of the economy and the concept of the value. In the system of market the only possible value is the value of change, the cost. The project Yasuni'-ITT bases overcoat on the recognition of the values of use and service, of the not economic values of the environmental safety and on the maintenance of the planetary diversity. The generation of goods is a question to inaugurate a new economic logic for the 21st century, where the generation of value is compensated, not only.

For the first time an oil producer country, Ecuador, where a third of the resources of the State depends on the exploitation of the above mentioned resources, resigns this income for the well-being of the whole humanity and invites the world to join efforts through a fair compensation, in order that together we lay the foundations for a *more human and fair civilization*.

Thank you very much.