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DECLARATION OF COCHABAMBA — PLACING THE FUNDAMENTAL STONE FOR A SOUTH AMERICAN UNION*

IT has been two years since the Cusco Declaration, in which we decided to conform the South American Community of Nations, and one year since we approved the high-priority agenda of Brasilia, and after a very constructive process of strategic reflection, today, we, the Presidents of the Nations of South America, decided in Cochabamba, directly facing our peoples, to place the fundamental stone of this process of South American integration.

1) A NEW MODEL OF INTEGRATION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The bipolarity constructed after World War II ended with the Cold War, weakened multilateralism, and deepened the asymmetries between countries and even continents.

The process of globalization has deeply influenced our economies and societies. Recently, it became possible to start building up alternatives for regaining growth, reaching macroeconomic equilibrium, the emphasis being wealth distribution as a tool to eliminate social exclusion and poverty reduction, and also decreasing external vulnerability.

Regional integration is an alternative to avoid globalization increasing the asymmetries that contribute to economic, social, and political marginality. Regional integration also allows countries to attempt taking advantage of the opportunities for development.

The Construction of the South American Community of Nations looks for the development of an integrated space in politics, society, culture, economics, finance, the environment, and infrastructure. This South American integration is not only needed to resolve the great scourges that affect the region, such as poverty, exclusion, and the persistent social inequalities that have become a point of anxiety for all of the national governments, but it is also a decisive step towards the achievement of a multi-polar, stable, and fair world, based on a culture of peace.

We considered a new model of integration that contains our own multiple identities in the middle of the diversity and differences and that recognizes the different political and ideological conceptions that correspond to the democratic plurality of our countries.

* Comunidad Andina, Declaración de Cochabamba, http://www.comunidadandina.org/documentos/dec_int/declaracion_cochabamba.htm. Translated into English by Marcos Aurélio Pereira Valadão.

This new model of integration encompasses the commercial scope and a broader economic and productive integration, such as new forms of political, social, and cultural cooperation, many public and private, like other forms of organization of civil society. It is an innovative integration process that includes all successes and achievements from MERCOSUR and ANC, in addition to the experiences of Chile, Guyana, and Surinam, yet going beyond the convergence of such processes. The final goal of this process of integration is and will be making a more equitable, harmonious, and integral development of South America possible.

In a time when our States assume new responsibilities, regional integration arises like an indispensable element to accomplish our national development projects, making South American cooperation possible at all the levels.

The South American Community of Nations, conformed by democratic and sovereign States, sustains itself in a conjunction of objectives, principles, and values that recognize the multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual character of our peoples. This community sustains itself in its historical bases, recognizing the role of original peoples, Afro-descendants, contracted migrant workers, and the social fights of the region. We are convinced that South American unity will contribute to strengthening the unity of all Latin America and the Caribbean.

2) GOVERNING PRINCIPLES OF SOUTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION

Our model of integration, gathering the postulates of the Declarations of Cusco, Ayacucho, and Brasilia, has as governing principles:

- I. Solidarity and cooperation in the search of a greater fairness, poverty reduction, diminution of the asymmetries, and strengthening of multilateralism as the governing principle of international relations.
- II. Sovereignty, respect for territorial integrity, and self-determination of the Peoples according to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, assuring the prerogative of the national States to decide its strategies of development and their insertion at the international level, without external interferences in domestic matters.
- III. Peace, so that South America continues to be a Zone of Peace in which international conflicts are resolved through peaceful means.
- IV. Democracy and Pluralism to consolidate a respectful integration without dictatorships and respect for human rights and human dignity, the original peoples, the Afro-descendants and migrants, with gender equality and respect for all minorities and their linguistic and cultural manifestations, recognizing the contribution of the social movements and organizations of civil society and their right to democratic participation in each one of the South American countries and in the process of integration.

- V. Human rights are universal, interdependent, and indivisible. Development of civil and political rights is to be given a similar impulse as is given to economic, social, and cultural rights, recognizing the right to development as a substantive right under the integrating and multidisciplinary protection of human rights.
- VI. Harmony with nature for a sustainable development guaranteeing that environmental preoccupations and those related to climatic change are present in all the initiatives of regional development, specifically in infrastructure and energy initiatives, preserving the balance of the ecosystems and protecting biodiversity with recognition and appreciation of traditional knowledge.

3) PREMISES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION

The process of construction of this integration is ambitious and precise in its strategic objectives, and at the same time it is flexible and gradual in its implementation. It allows all countries to be a part, and at the same time it makes it possible for each country to assume the commitments according to its reality. The most suitable way is to advance in common public policies while respecting the timing and the sovereignty of each country.

Our integration is grounded in strategic alliances based on democratic commitment, the strength of political dialogue, the creation of a space of agreement and conciliation, contribution to regional stability, integration of regional social policies, and appreciation of a South American cultural identity with participation of local and regional actors.

4) THE GOALS OF THE INTEGRATION

South American integration considers the following regional goals that they have as bases to a set of actions of immediate impact to revert the enormous social deficit of the region, first emphasizing the advance and development of the first four goals:

- Overcoming the asymmetries for an equitable integration: to develop concrete and effective mechanisms that will permit the resolution of great inequalities that exist between countries and regions of South America.
- A New South American Social Contract: to promote integration with a human face integrated with a productive agenda, which is expressed by establishing precise goals of social development and in systematic evaluation mechanisms.
- Energy integration for the well-being of all: to integrate strategies and national policies for the use of regional energy resources that shall be integral, sustainable, shared in common, and recognizing the asymmetries between the countries and regions.

- Infrastructure for the interconnection of our peoples and the region: to promote the connectivity of the region by constructing transportation and telecommunication networks interconnecting the countries, complying with the criteria of social and economic sustainable development, in order to accelerate the integration process while preserving the environment and the balance of the ecosystems.
- Economic and commercial cooperation: to advance and consolidate the process of innovative and dynamic convergence directed at establishing a transparent, equitable, and balanced commercial system that allows effective access. The promotion of growth and economic development, by overcoming the asymmetries by means of the complementation of the economies of the countries of South America, as well as the promotion of well being of all the sectors of the population and the reduction of the poverty are fundamental objectives.
- South American financial integration: to develop financial mechanisms that are compatible with the specific conditions of economic and fiscal policies of our countries and that support the implementation of the projects of South American integration.
- Industrial and productive integration: to impel common actions of industrial development and innovation, privileging the important roll of small- and medium-sized companies, as well as other forms of productive organization and facilitating the integration of regional initiatives, public as well as private ones, taking advantage of, among others, the potential of synergies.
- Towards a South American citizenship: to progressively recognize civil, political, labor, and social rights for the nationals of a Member State in any one of the other Member States.
- Migration: to address the subject of migration with an integral and comprehensive approach, with unrestricted respect for human rights that leads to an effective cooperation, particularly in strategic areas, like the connection between migration, development, and the harmonization of policies. In this sense, it emphasizes the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and their Families.
- Cultural identity: to promote the recognition, protection, and appreciation of all expressions of the common, cultural South American identity, by developing projects that promote multiculturalism and facilitate the circulation of representative cultural expressions of the memory and identity of our peoples.
- Cooperation in environmental matters: to elaborate proposals for preserving the biodiversity, hydro-resources, and the ecosystems, mitigating the effects of climatic changes, assuring sustainable development, and implementing actions of prevention to different classes of catastrophes.
- Citizen Participation: to develop mechanisms of dialogue between the institutions of the South American Community of Nations and

the civil society to allow a greater participation in the South American integration policy design process.

- Cooperation in defense matters: to continue promoting information exchange in the matter of doctrines and personnel qualification between the Ministries of Defense of the Member States.

“STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEEPENING OF SOUTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION”

A) STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS (SACN)

1. The South American Community of Nations relies on the following institutions:
Annual Meetings of Government and Chiefs of State;
Biannual Meetings of Chancellors;
Sector Ministry Meetings;
High Officers Commission (HOC);
Pro Tempore Secretariat.
2. It is decided to establish a High Officers Commission to assure, at the executive level, the implementation of presidential and ministerial decisions and the coordination of existing initiatives, avoiding the duplicity of efforts and suggesting solid initiatives within the landmark of the great regional objectives and the actions of immediate impact. The High Officers Commission will count on the cooperation of the secretariats of ANC, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, and LAIA in the correspondent cases, as well as other regional institutions.
3. The High Officers Commission, with the support of appropriate regional organizations, will establish Work Groups in the areas of infrastructure, energy integration, and social policies. These Work Groups will have to propose, under consideration of the Chancellors and sector Ministers, the actual agendas and initiatives in these areas.
4. Also within the scope of the High Officers Commission, a Work Group, with the support of the HOC, will deepen the studies and the elaboration of proposals related to the constitution or adaptation of financial mechanisms and the promotion of South America.
5. The High Officers Commission will have to insure the deepening of the institutional bonds between MERCOSUR and ANC, with full participation of Chile, Guyana, and Surinam. They will promote joint meetings of MERCOSUR and ANC that act in compatible areas in the political and social field, and will review the existent agreements by MERCOSUR and ANC in those areas for verifying the feasibility of its amplification to all the countries of South America.

6. The High Officers Commission will count on the technical support of a reduced structure that will be located, in the first year, in Rio de Janeiro. The proposals of the High Officers Commission will be approved by consensus.
7. The High Officers Commission will lead the study of the elements in a Constituent Agreement that leads to the affirmation, at the international level, of a true South American identity and citizenship, founded on the common values of respect for democracy and human rights and in the construction of a common future of peace and economic and social prosperity.
8. The High Officers Commission and particularly the Work Group for social policies will be in charge of promoting a dialogue with different actors from civil society proposing more institutionalized mechanisms that will allow systematic information, and stimulating the participation and gathering the proposals from different sectors, taking advantage of the experiences from ANC and MERCOSUR. The experience acquired from the Social Summit of Cochabamba will be especially taken into consideration for the interaction with civil society.
9. The High Officers Commission will work on the following subjects, departing from the proposals that will arrive from the Member States and the materials from the Pro Tempore Secretariat:
 - a. Institutional convergence;
 - b. Economic development and job generation;
 - c. Commercial integration;
 - d. Energy integration;
 - e. Integration in infrastructure for transport and communications;
 - f. Asymmetries;
 - g. Productive integration;
 - h. Innovation, investigation, and development;
 - i. Technologies of information and communications;
 - j. South American financing mechanisms;
 - k. South American social agenda;
 - l. Environment;
 - m. South American citizenship;
 - n. Cultural identity; and
 - o. Citizen participation in the integration process.

B) POLITICIAN DIALOGUE

1. The political agreement between the countries of the Community will be a factor of harmony and mutual respect which will grant regional stability and sustain the preservation of democratic values and respect for human rights and human dignity, identifying lines of action that allow coordinated action to face situations of interest to

the countries of the region. The joint declarations of the Community will be always adopted by consensus.

2. The South American Forum of Consultation and Political Coordination will promote the dialogue on common interest subjects by means of initiatives that affirm the region as a different and dynamic factor in their external relations. The Forum will always act by consensus.

C) EXTERNAL DIALOGUE

External dialogue and cooperation initiatives of the South American Community of Nations (SACN) with other regions and groups will be intensified. The Chancellors will continue the initiatives derived from the South America-Arab Countries Summit and the South America-Africa Summit, and will start the preparation of a South America-Asia Summit.

D) COORDINATION WITH THE WTO AND MULTILATERAL-FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Foreign Relations Ministers, Foreign Trade Ministers, and Economic Subjects Ministers of the countries of the Community, taking into consideration the special necessities of small and vulnerable economies, will reinforce the practice of construction of agreements and consensuses in which it refers to the central subjects of the international agenda. This coordination that already is carried out between several countries of the region in the WTO Development Round shall be reproduced in other relevant forums.

E) PARLIAMENTS

The Presidents invite the Andean Parliament, the MERCOSUR Parliament, and the legislative institutions of Chile, Guyana, and Surinam to consider designing conduit mechanisms for establishing a South American parliamentary space.

F) PLACE AND DATE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE

1. The Third Meeting of the Chiefs of State of the South American Community of Nations will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2007. Also, the Summit of the Presidents on Energy Integration will take place in Venezuela in 2007.

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA REPÚBLICA DE BOLIVIA REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DEL BRASIL REPÚBLICA DE CHILE REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA REPÚBLICA DE ECUADOR	REPÚBLICA COOPERATIVA DE GUYANA REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY REPÚBLICA DEL PERÚ REPÚBLICA DE SURINAM REPÚBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA
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Perspective

