

# The Republic of Paraguay

## Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly Plenary

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### Introduction

As upheld by Fernando Lugo Mendez, President of Paraguay, at the 64th session of the General Assembly Plenary on 24 September 2008, "Paraguay [supports] strengthening the General Assembly as the most representative United Nations body, it must become the true parliament of the world." Paraguay is honored to be a member of the United Nations General Assembly Plenary since 1945. Paraguay has asserted its full commitment to maintain peace through the implementation of international cooperation by the General Assembly Plenary as set out by the United Nations Charter. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, Miguel Abdon Saguier, has stated, "Paraguay would like resolutely to uphold the noble mission of the United Nations and its Members in achieving a broad and in-depth understanding among the different cultures. That is why we enthusiastically support initiatives of dialogue among different peoples, Governments and religions."

### I: The Democratization of the United Nations Structure

It is the duty of the United Nations to effectively adhere to the needs of the global community as it changes and evolves. In 2004, the United Nations signed into effect the Oil-for-Food Program, a humanitarian aid effort to provide impoverished citizens with food products. The Republic of Paraguay asserts that corruption and inefficiency within UN legislation stems from a lack of democracy within the UN structure. President Lugo Mendez reiterated Paraguay's commitment to reform at the UN 63<sup>rd</sup> Session when he said, "Paraguay is in favor of strengthening the General Assembly and restoring its mandated attributes and functions under the United Nations Charter...the Assembly must become a true world parliament in...the major issues affecting humankind." The Republic of Paraguay commends member states of the United Nations that also remain committed to promoting democratic practices and greater representation within the UN. On September 26 to the 27<sup>th</sup> of 2009, Paraguay, along with its African and South American allies, met in the Caribbean island of Margarita to discuss the expansion of permanent representation in the Security Council. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, Deputy Secretary General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro briefed the General Assembly on the progress made pertaining to the Joint Strategic Plan, aimed to strengthen ties among Member States. Dr. Migiro stated during her briefing that, "strengthening the rule of law is central to achieving the UN vision for a just, secure and peaceful world." The Deputy Secretary General's briefing came in light of the greater UN initiative to reenergize information sharing and to reinforce rule of law development. Resolution A/RES/56/255 titled, "Calls on Secretary General to Evaluate UN Security System," passed on December 24, 2001, was implemented as an initial step to begin the coordination of UN resources. The following Resolutions, A/RES/52/129 titled, "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization," signed on December 12, 1997, and A/RES/57/155 titled, "Call for securities measures that acts as an integral part of planning for existing and newly mandated UN operations," signed on March 3, 2003, also support the efforts of democratization, coordination of resources, and security reform. Internationally, Paraguay has created Semillas Para la Democracia, or Seeds of Democracy, as a testament to Paraguay's support of democratic practices in all legislative bodies. On a regional scale, The Republic of Paraguay has been dedicated to the growth and stability of its neighbors through programs such as the United Nations Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), which aims for reform in favor of greater involvement and leverage among developing countries within the United Nations. The Republic of Paraguay's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to international cooperation through democratic legislation within the United Nations. Paraguay supports the One Programme, a national effort in Pakistan established in 2007 to begin reform of the UN so that the International Community may better serve the nation of Pakistan and so that the Millennium Development Goals may be reached by 2015. The Republic of Paraguay proposes a three-point plan, entitled **CER: CONSOLIDATE, EXPAND, and REENERGIZE**. First, it is imperative to **CONSOLIDATE** UN resources to better address global issues and coordinate information resources, then it is necessary to **EXPAND** developing nations' participation and leverage in UN bodies to better reflect the constant evolution of the world order, and finally to **REENERGIZE** the efforts of peacekeeping troops to secure territorial integrity and uphold the principles of human rights in volatile areas by means of reevaluating past corruption scandals and tailoring effective practices to specific cases. President Lugo Mendez stated in his speech at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 that, "Paraguay is a small country in the world, but it believes in friendship... and its values and its principles, sooner rather than later will replace the hostility which is so present in our times."

### II. Moving Forward: An Evaluation of Climate Change Initiatives

The Republic of Paraguay asserts that climate change is a threatening reality occurring in the world today. In 1982, floods affected approximately 100,000 Paraguayans, resulting in the death of 76 people and in \$82,000 in damage. On September 12<sup>th</sup> of 2007, Paraguay declared a state of emergency as forest fires that were attributed to deforestation destroyed nearly 250,000 acres of forest. As stated by President Lugo Mendez at the UN 63<sup>rd</sup> Session on September 24, 2008, “Paraguay believes that the problems that have led to climate change call for short- and long-term world responses in line with the most recent scientific advances and applied in a fashion that is compatible with the economic and social development of each country affected.” The Republic of Paraguay is devoted to the reduction of green house gases, fossil fuels, and deforestation. Today, more than 1 million Paraguayans are affected by climate change each year. 46.5% of Paraguay’s territory is forested. Between 1990 and 2005, Paraguay lost 12.7% of its forest cover due to deforestation. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated on September 22, 2009, at the Copenhagen Global Summit for Climate Change that, “Failure to reach broad agreement in Copenhagen would be morally inexcusable, economically short-sighted and politically unwise. Now is the moment to act in common cause. Climate change is a defining challenge of our time.” In 1999, the amount of fossil fuel emissions measured at 1.1 percent. In 2002, fossil fuel emissions had risen to 3.5 percent. Paraguay calls upon Resolutions A/RES/63/32 titled, “Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations” signed on November 28, 2008, A/RES/63/220 titled, “Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program on its 10th special session” signed on March 3 2009, and A/RES/63/212 titled, “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Program for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development” signed on February 18, 2009, to be respectable initiatives taken to address ardent concerns facing climate change. Paraguay has shown its relentless efforts to combat climate change through the support of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), a global alliance working towards the advancement of forest tenure, policy, and market reforms in developing countries. The Republic of Paraguay moves to address environmental concerns on a regional level through its support of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, both of which focus on conservation initiatives by combating deforestation. Paraguay’s National Secretariat of Environment Ministry works to advance the economic prosperity of Paraguayan citizens via conservation methods and renewable energy projects. Paraguay’s World Wild Life Fund and National Forest Institute serve to combat the threat of deforestation and climate change. Additionally, Paraguay has established a national program to assess its own climate change under the Program of Training for the Climate Change (CC: TRAIN) implemented by the Institute for the United Nations for Investigation and the Professional Formation. Accordingly, The Republic of Paraguay proposes a **3-point plan** entitled: **Partnership, Prosperity and Progression (PPP)**. It is crucial that Member States form **PARTNERSHIPS** with each other in addition to with public and private entities. The Republic of Paraguay calls on the International Community to bolster economic **PROSPERITY** for developing nations devastated by the gradual loss of their crops, water supply, and livelihood through incentives in combating the causes of deforestation, drought, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. Finally, **PROGRESSION** of safe technology, information sharing, and conservation practices are vital to the Earth’s survival. As Senior Senator of Paraguay’s Foreign Relations Committee Miguel Abdón Saguier stated at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly on November 13, 2008, “Dialogue can take place only if we accept, or even better tolerate, the...characteristics that distinguish each people, each national society, that form an integral part of humankind.”

### III. International Assessment of Human Cloning

Paraguay is committed to upholding the principles of dignity and protection of human life through the implementation of an extensive policy to prohibit human cloning initiatives. In October 2009, United States researchers reported on an ethical method of harvesting stem cells for research purposes. This scientific method allows scientists to extract stem cells without the use of embryos, yet is only effective in 1 out of every 10,000 tests. The first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep, died in 2003 just six years after her birth due to lung disease. At the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Plenary session, Paraguay’s Matsuo de Claverol asserted, “Paraguay’s Constitution enshrined the right to life, beginning at conception, and [I] hope that it would soon be possible to adopt an effective international instrument protecting that right. Human cloning, whatever its purpose, is unethical and incompatible with respect for human dignity. Further efforts should be made to arrive at a consensus on preventing scientific experimentation conducted at the expense of human lives.” Proposals in the past have called upon nations to ban the use of embryonic and stem cell research for the purpose of reproductive cloning, but to allow therapeutic cloning due to certain beneficiary elements. Obtaining eggs for these procedures can cost upwards of \$100,000 per donor, all paid for by the national government or by private donations. In cloned mice, approximately every ten out of twelve die within the first 500 days of life. Paraguay calls upon the 1991, 2002, and 2005 resolutions titled A/RES/53/152 (The human genome and human rights), A/RES/56/93 (International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings), and A/RES/59/280 (United Nations Declaration on Human Cloning), call for an international ban on human cloning practices. Paraguay has furthered its initiatives by joining neighboring states to adopt the American Convention of Human Rights also known as the Pact of San Jose. Chapter II of the convention details a list of individual, civil, and political rights of all persons is set forth. The convention is enforced by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, both of which ensure that signatories comply with the pact’s set provisions outlined in the convention. Paraguay

proposes a **three-point plan titled CEP**. Member States must come to a **CONSENSUS** on what forms of cloning are to be prohibited entirely. Due to vast differences in ideologies, it has been exceedingly difficult to implement an effectual international governing policy. Secondly, a framework must be set up in order to ensure **ENFORCEMENT** of all policies by providing guidelines for Member States to form structures of regulation within their own national governments. Finally, uniform **PROCEDURE** must be established so that nations have a set protocol in regulating scientific research that would interfere with the ban of human cloning practices. Former President of Costa Rica Abel Pacheco stated at the Friends to the Nation dinner on February 6, 2004, “This historic commitment to human dignity has moved us to propose to the United Nations the adoption of a comprehensive ban on all forms of human cloning. Human cloning, whether done with the purpose of creating identical copies of other human beings or to make scientific experiments, constitutes a grave breach of human dignity.”