



PERMANENTE MISSION OF MEXICO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Opening remarks by Ambassador Yanerit Morgan during the side event:
Rights in Crisis- An expert meeting on promoting a rights-based approach to financial
regulation, macroeconomic policies and economic recovery**

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First of all I would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the invitation to participate in the opening of this important seminar that brings together experts from different disciplines, whom all share one common goal: ensuring that the enjoyment of human rights be at the center of all governmental policy, of course this must include macroeconomic, financial and fiscal policy.

It is clear that the enjoyment of human rights can be severely affected by the impact of economic and financial crisis's, generated by an unbalances within national economies or by problems that affect other countries or regions, which considering the integration of the global economy, end up affecting millions of people around the globe.

One of the central issues of this discussion is the way in which States and societies should respond together when faced with economic downturn or an economic crisis. The High Commissioner and different human rights mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, have highlighted that a large part of the economic measures adopted to revert the impact of the economic crisis, in many cases "austerity" measures, have generated an even greater negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, by limiting social programs or accentuating discrimination against certain vulnerable groups, like women, migrants, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

It is precisely during moments of economic instability that States must adopt all measures within their reach in order to maintain a "social protection floor" and ensure their "minimum core obligations", as recommended by the Committee of on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

This approach is not simple if you take into account that it is during times of economic turmoil that States are faced with budgetary restrictions. In this sense, the institutional and legal framework should ensure the progressive realization of economic, cultural and social rights.

Closing inequality gaps is another important aspect in which social and financial policy should be mutually reinforcing. More equal societies can better face the impact of economic cycles.

II Experience of Mexico

In the particular case of Mexico, the General Law on Social Development establishes that the federal budget assigned to social expenditure cannot be lower, in real terms than that of the previous year, and it should increase based on the economic growth predictions, and in accordance with the resources available. In that sense, the national legislative framework ensures progressivity and avoid decline in social expenditure.

Furthermore, in the framework of income transfer programs for combating poverty, when faced with an increase in the food and fuel prices in the context of the economic crisis, the amount designated to food subsidies was also increased, and an additional amount was added to compensate the higher energy prices.

We also need to think on how to enhance our social protections schemes so in the medium term they can play a decisive role in increasing the participation of the labor force, improving productive capacity, promoting capital accumulation and investment, and improving the wellbeing of families at risk. In other words, these programs should contribute to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

The Government of President of Enrique Peña Nieto has defined as a priority for the beginning of his administration to focus on 400 municipalities that face conditions of extreme poverty in Mexico, under a national campaign known as the "*Cruzada Nacional Contra el Hambre*". The campaign looks to place priority attention on 7.4 million people that face extreme poverty.

III. Lessons learned. A people center approach for the post 2015 Development Agenda.

As today discussions remind us of the impact of the current economic and social environment on the enjoyment of human rights, allow me to share with you a few reflections regarding the importance of a comprehensive post 2015 Development Agenda:

- The Post-2015 Development Agenda should evenly integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental-, in which poverty eradication is achieved through economic growth, social inclusion and sustainability.
- It should be centered on the person and be built on a human rights approach as an essential element for development.
- Equity among countries and among individuals should be a cross-sectional element.
- The new paradigm of the development must be built on its universal character. We need objectives for all countries, but with goals that fit and are relevant to each national situation and with a strong focus on reducing inequality.
- Structural issues such as education, health, and gender equality must be enhanced, while including others such as infrastructure, energy and job creation.
- The rule of law and governance translated into strengthening multilateral and national institutions must also be a fundamental part.
- The financing of the agenda will require effective resource mobilization that includes means of implementation, as established in Monterrey (2002) and Doha (2009).
- The agenda should be guided by the human rights principles of transparency, participation and accountability and implemented through a global partnership in which all stakeholders (governments, civil society and private sector) are involved.

Finally, I would like to highlight the civil society consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean, just held last week in Guadalajara, México to discuss the new international development agenda. These consultations included over 400 participants from 24 countries of the region.

The consensus in the regional consultations was clear about the need to attack the deep inequality gaps through a Post-2015 Agenda that promotes structural change for economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

There was a particular emphasis to recognize the challenges of groups, such as indigenous peoples to achieve their full development, and to identify migration as a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing human rights, social protection and development as a whole.

In conclusion we should aimed for a comprehensive development agenda that will help to establish societies that will be better equipped to deal with future economic turmoil and limit its negative effects on the enjoyment of human rights.

Thank you