



Madame President, of the Human Rights Council,

High authorities of the member and observer countries of the Human Rights Council,

Madame United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Ladies and gentlemen

Bolivia is part of this Commission again after several years, in this first meeting of this forty-sixth (46th) session we have many things that we would like to express, but time limits us all, so prioritizing we want to share with you the following:

At the end of 2019 Bolivia faced the interruption of the constitutional order, we suffered repression from police, military and paramilitary groups, political hunt by instrumentalized prosecutors and judges. Resulting in a serious social rupture in the midst of hate speech, racist, discriminatory and even white supremacy.

In October 2020, Bolivian people recovered democracy in an unquestionable election and they elected a new government.

At present, the government that I represent, develops various actions to achieve national reconciliation, among them: promoting an investigation of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts that acts in a framework of the Protocol signed in November 2020 between the Bolivian government and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

From our historical experience, we understand that in order to look forward, we must fight for accountability for past abuses.

Then we understand this responsibility must be assumed by our State and by the entire international community; this must be applied to all countries, small and large, for past and present actions. Whether taking responsibility for centuries of slavery from Global North or recent coups in Global South, frequently managed by North countries. In all these cases, this Council must raise its voice, we cannot just witness with indifference.

Given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we propose that it's essential that all peoples of the world get access to the vaccines and measures must be taken to prevent hoarding and any action that difficult the arrival of the vaccine to all people in developing countries.

The only way to get rid of this disease is through universal access to vaccines, medicines, and adequate care to treat the disease in all peoples of the world.

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Another topic that we consider important for the full enjoyment of human rights is the recovery of economic stability, especially developing countries that have been the most affected.

For this reason, Bolivia has proposed to create a Debt Relief Forum meant to cancel and restructure external debt in favor of developing countries, that takes into account economic recovery, sustainable growth and democratic transformation of world financial organizations.

Economy must be at service of human beings, and not human beings at petty service of economy and interests of a few owners of wealth.

In Bolivia, we have also dealt with racism for centuries and as a result we opted to decolonize and redefine the country as a Plurinational State. However, the experience of 2019 showed us that racist and discriminatory positions have not yet been overcome and they are real, imminent and a serious risk. In the world, we see similar positions in racist speech and actions that are a pressing risk to humanity itself. We must stop judging people based on their religious beliefs, nationality and ethnic identity. We must value everyone for an inherent dignity of the human condition. That is the permanent basis of human rights. We must fight racism in all its forms. We cannot tolerate institutionalized discrimination against Muslims in France; that the Palestinians are denied the COVID-19 vaccine; that members of ethnic minorities are murdered and tortured in places like Western Sahara and Sri Lanka, or that people who speak Spanish and who look like me with brown skin, are pulled apart from their families when they appear at the frontier between Mexico and USA.

Racist nationalism represents one of, if not the greatest threat to democracy and human rights in the world today.

Despite all International Conventions that establish measures to reduce social, economic, labor and political inequalities between women and men, quantities and facts show us that there is still much to do. Femicide and violence continue to be critical problems in our societies.

Without ending violence against women, adolescents and girls, without overcoming inequity that makes them victims of societies in which they are believed less than men, we will not be able to talk about the real validity of human rights.

To conclude, we reaffirm our firm commitment to uphold our Mother Earth, human right to drinking water and sanitation, accordingly we consider those cannot be reduced to merchandise.

A decade has passed since water and sanitation were expressly recognized as human rights by a Bolivian initiative, and despite advances it is still necessary for our States to be more effective to accomplish those rights, which are essential for a dignified life, for a well living.

Thank you very much.

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