



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO

**Intervention by Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba,
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations,
on item 69 “Human Rights” of the Third Committee**

New York, November 8, 2012.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of Mexico to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, within its territory as well as in any other part of the world, and to the strengthening and consolidation of the international human rights system, its bodies and mechanisms.

Mexico continues to work in order to ensure a culture of human rights through the entire country, benefiting from the cooperation with international mechanisms in the field, and in order to adapt its legal and institutional framework to ensure the highest standards for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Last year we shared with you the important advancements that the constitutional reforms with regard to human rights and “amparo” represented, through which the effective exercise of the rights enshrined in international treaties to which Mexico is party were strengthened by granting them constitutional status.

In this occasion, I am pleased to highlight the continuation of the process of legislative harmonization with the following changes to the national legislative framework:

The new Migration Law that de-criminalizes all aspects of migration and recognizes the rights of access to justice, education, health and acts of civil registration for migrants and their families, independently of their migratory status.

The entry into force of The Act for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, as well as the legislative changes necessary for establishing the competence of federal authorities with regard to crimes against journalists, persons or installations, or that threaten freedom of expression or the right to information,

The criteria established by the National Supreme Court, based on international standards, which restricts military jurisdiction, so that elements of the armed forces that commit human rights violations are tried in the civil jurisdiction,

In regards to economic, social and cultural rights, reforms to the Constitution were undertaken in order to recognize the right to food, to a healthy environment and to the access, provision, and sanitation of water. Also, the mandatory character of middle school education was established, with the State bearing the responsibility for the effective exercise of the aforementioned rights.

Mr. President,

Mexico has continued to contribute to the establishment of international standards for the promotion and the protection of human rights, as well as for the strengthening of mandates and the necessary resources for the work of the human rights mechanisms. In all cases we look to promote synergies, avoid unnecessary duplications, and encourage proper complimentary efforts.

As vice-president of ECOSOC, Mexico presented a resolution so that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could have additional time to address the backlog in the consideration of States reports.

In this same sense, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is currently facing a more pressing problem, considering that the time allotted for them to carry out their mandate is not proportional to the number of States Parties to the Convention.

This is why, Mexico, together with New Zealand and Sweden, presented before this Committee a draft resolution which seeks to provide a short-term solution to this problem, with the expectation that in the near future a sustainable solution can be adopted throughout the treaty body system in the framework of the negotiation process established by the General Assembly to this end.

However we consider that some urgent actions, such as the strengthening of the technical cooperation and capacity building that the Office of the High Commissioner provides, the increased support for treaty bodies and the exchange of good practices, should be implemented immediately.

On the other hand, in the Human Rights Council, Mexico and Turkey presented an innovative initiative regarding birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition as a person before the law, which is an essential element to the full enjoyment of other rights. As evidence of the complementarity to which I have previously referred to, this issue is also being taken up in other draft resolutions under consideration by this Committee

Mr. President,

Mexico, as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, has insisted on the importance of addressing the opportunities and challenges presented by migration through a comprehensive approach, with the protection of migrants and their families at its core.

The upcoming year, during which the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development will take place, we have an excellent opportunity to advance with regards to an international understanding on the issue of migration. We consider that the human rights of migrants must be at the center of our discussion and that this Committee can make a significant contribution to this process. For this reason, the draft resolution on the Protection of Migrants presented by Mexico to this Committee addresses some of these issues.

Mr. President,

We consider that the experience of my country as member of the Council during its early years, including the role it played in the process of its institutional construction, the successful initiatives it has presented in distinct forums, its contribution to a balanced consideration of issues that make up the human right agenda, and the important developments achieved at the national level, support the aspiration of Mexico to become member of the Human Rights Council for the period of 2014-2016. We ask for the support of all States with regards to our candidacy.

In compliance with resolution 60/251, Mexico has circulated to all Delegations the document containing the contributions and promises on human rights that support its candidacy.

The aforementioned document can be found on the following website:

<http://www.sre.gob.mx/onu/>

Thank you.